

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE  
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2022  
Wednesday

5:30PM  
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Carl Fortune, Tom Snipp, Bob Heanue and Brad Limoge (via Zoom)

Staff: Penny Jones, Kevin Newton, Pete Crowley

Absent: Todd Deuso

Public: Ken Nolan (VPPSA), Ron Stancliff

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Fortune called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

The Chairman and Penny want to add discussion of a customer issue with a street light to the agenda under Other Business.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 2, 2022:

Penny pointed out two typos and one grammatical error that have been corrected. On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 2, 2022, with the corrected typos and grammar.

4) APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 3, 2022:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the special meeting held on March 3, 2022.

5) APPROVE CHECK REGISTERS 3/4 & 3/16:

Trustee Limoge questioned the payment to Northline Utilities. Penny communicated it was for the change orders for the Sub #3 upgrade previously approved by the board. On a **motion** by Trustee Snipp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) check registers 3/4 & 3/16.

6) APPROVE APPOINTMENTS TO DRB & MPC:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) the appointments of Laura Streets and Melissa LeBlanc to the Development Review Board for 4-year terms.

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) the appointment of Thomas Snipp to the Morristown Planning Commission for a 4-year term. Chairman Snipp abstained.

7) APPROVE CHANGES TO TOWN PLAN:

Todd Thomas briefly reviewed the LCPC changes. They want to restore the long-standing 50 mph speed limit on the Shutesville Hill area and change the name of the Town Plan from 2020 to 2022-2030. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) the changes to the town plan.

8) APPROVE LIEN:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) a lien on the property located at 594 Cochran Road and owned by Joshua M. Lucier in the amount of \$200.77.

9) OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Management Update. Kevin updated the board on generation at Green River. Kevin communicated to the board an issue with a customer's sewer line that was in the area of a water line replacement in 2018. Kevin is working with the customer and suspects we will need to file a claim with our insurance company, VLCT. Penny suspects that VLCT may reach out to the Contractor of the water line upgrade because the warranty was on the water line work, not damages. Pete updated the board on the completion of the terminator work at Sub #3. The only thing left is an infra-red scan of the sub. The B22 rebuild has begun. We had a few more insulator failures on the transmission line. They have been up since 1962 and are becoming brittle. The crews are conducting make-ready work for Comcast on the Elmore Mountain Road. He has a call into Altec trying to find a bucket truck but the lead-times are 1.5 to 2 years for a custom-built truck. We are trying to see if they have a demo or rental that has everything we need and may be available for sale. We, along with the rest of the industry, are having issues getting stock. Penny updated the board on the visit from Prudential for our retirement plans. She has been very busy preparing for the audit which is scheduled for next week. Penny has been appointed a board member for NEPPA.
- b. VPPSA. Ken Nolan updated the board on the AMI project. VPPSA essentially has a final contract between themselves and the AMI vendor (Aclara Systems) ready for approval by the VPPSA board and the contracts between VPPSA and its members. They are trying to get some funding from the Legislature. The VHFA WRAP program is another project they are working on. VHFA was concerned that low-income households cannot afford to weatherize so they are working on possible loans that customers would pay back through their electric bill. There would be no liability on the utilities for unpaid loans. There is growing pressure from state officials as to whether municipal utilities can survive the future. VPPSA has determined that a lot of people do not realize what their municipal utilities actually do for their customers so they have hired a consulting firm to identify weaknesses. One of their key findings was a disconnect between VPPSA staff and the boards of the utilities. We need to use the same language and send the same message to the regulatory agencies and to our customers. VPPSA is testing some messaging/tag-lines. There is grant money available from DHS for cyber security and the DPS asked if VPPSA could apply on behalf of the municipals, which they can. VPPSA has applied for a grant for an assessment of the IT systems and to assemble a map of all the of SCADA interconnections. Once they determine the vulnerabilities, they can begin to find solutions.
- c. Ron Stancliff. Ron attended the meeting to discuss various parcels of property The Village/MW&L owns. He has approached the Land Trust about purchasing the development rights of Bugbee Springs as critical wildlife habitat. Another tract of land is 25 acres bordering Lake Lamoille which MW&L is not interested in selling. A third tract of land is 52 acres bordering Route 15A and Darling Road inside our SPA which MW&L is not interested in selling. A fourth tract of land is 18 acres between Bridge Street and the Lamoille Family Center on which Ron would like to establish formal recreational trails via easements. Penny reached out to our insurance carrier about liability over a year ago they indicated a strong agreement be put in place with the Town. At the time Dan Lindley did not want to proceed until after the Duhamel Pit issues were resolved. The board discussed if we allowed recreational trails and we find a use or buyer for the property eventually, we might not be able to because of the trails.
- d. Any other Business to come before the meeting. We have a customer upset over the billing for a security light. He is contesting having to pay for a street light for one year as the application he signed indicates. He does not want a street light on 24/7, but rather on a timer. The board started to discuss the specifics of this, however as it was getting into contractual discussions, plus the customer had threatened litigation, the Board decided that any further discussions of this topic should be covered under Executive Session.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:21 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) to go into executive session to discuss **a**) item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(3), the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee and to discuss **b**) item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(1)(E), pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public party is or may be a party. The board came out of executive session at 8:12 PM. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) to allow Don Valentine to get out of his street light contract and only charge him the outstanding balance on the account for the light.

10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM.

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Attest: Tom Snipp