

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE  
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2022  
Wednesday

5:30PM  
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Carl Fortune, Tom Snipp and Bob Heanue

Staff: Penny Jones, Kevin Newton, Pete Crowley

Absent: Todd Deuso, Brad Limoge

Guest: Todd Thomas

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Fortune called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

Penny wants to add the Board electing to use the standard allowance for lost revenue for ARPA funds designation under Section 7.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 16, 2022:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (3-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 16, 2022.

4) APPROVE CHECK REGISTERS 3/18, 3/25, 3/30 & 4/1:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (3-0) check registers 3/18, 3/25, 3/30 & 4/1.

5) APPROVE "RULES OF PROCEDURE" FOR JOINT APPOINTMENTS:

Todd Thomas stated that the Selectboard signed this same document on Monday night and is an attempt to revise a prior version. The recent changes are on page one, number 4, the Selectboard wanted to specify how reappointments would happen. The changes include keeping a list of anyone interested in running for the PC or DRB and reaching out to them should a vacancy occur. Vacancies would also be advertised and interested applicants would put their name on the list. Trustee Heanue asked if an addendum could be added that "anyone on this list must be resident of Morrisville or Morristown". Todd said yes but he would have to present it to the Selectboard. Penny pointed out that #8 states that meeting minutes shall include everyone in attendance. She is not sure if that is statutorily correct as minutes have to reflect everyone that speaks but not necessarily everyone in attendance. The Trustees agreed. These rules only affect the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board as they are the only two boards that are appointed by both the Selectboard and the Trustees. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue to amend the Rules of Procedure to state that residents wishing to serve on the PC or MRB, they need to be a registered voter of Morristown or Morrisville. Seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (3-0) the amended motion to approve the Rules for Procedure for Joint Appointments.

6) APPROVE CHANGES TO TOWN PLAN:

Trustee Snipp moved to discuss changes to the Town Plan with Trustee Heanue seconding. New language was requested by a new Selectboard member who feels that the language about a joint emergency service building for police and fire was important. Trustee Heanue felt if this new member wanted it added, he

should have approached the Planning Commission in the first place. This route gives no public hearings on the matter. On a **motion** by Trustee Snipp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board voted (0-3) these last-minute changes to the Town Plan. The motion failed.

7) APPROVE BULK WATER RATES:

In 2020, there was a discussion about the bulk water rates. The rates were kept the same but an administrative fee of \$30/month was added. Trustee Heanue recommended raising the administrative fee and the per gallon bulk water rates by the rate of inflation (5%). On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (3-0) to raise the bulk water rates and administrative fee by 5%.

7.1) APPROVE STANDARD ALLOWANCE FOR LOST REVENUE FOR OUR ARPA FUNDS:

While on a call with VLCT it was mentioned that there is reporting due at the end of this month and if we wanted to use the standard allowance for lost revenue for ARPA funding it needed to be designated by the end of this month. A rule change with ARPA funding says you can use the funds for lost revenue due to COVID. VLCT researched and found that you didn't have to actually lose any revenue but you could still claim this standard allowance. VLCT recommended that everyone elect this as it streamlines reporting and give us flexibility in spending. The Village is due approximately \$604,000. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (3-0) the standard allowance for lost revenue for ARPA funds.

8) OTHER BUSINESS:

b. Amy Wade Discussion. When Penny was reading the Selectboard packet, she noticed a proposal from the Copley Country Club requesting money from the Copley Fund. She understood these two funds started around the same time. Even though the Copley Fund and the Amy Wade Fund are two separate entities, Penny is concerned that the Amy Wade Fund is just sitting in a CD and growing on the rate of inflation and nothing is ever done with it. Should we let this fund grow for no purpose whatsoever or can we start giving the money for beautification projects. Trustee Heanue feels we should spend the money because Alexander Copley did not give the Village the money for it to do nothing. At the end of 2021, the fund has just under \$150,000. The Chairman asked about the Verizon lease payments. When the Verizon agreement was signed, another agreement was signed by the Copley Country Club giving the Village \$2400 to go into the Amy Wade/Special Projects Funds. The question was asked whether we need a Special Projects Fund if we use the Amy Wade Fund for what it is set aside for. Trustee Heanue agreed as long as the funds are used as they were intended for. Penny understood there were very clear guidelines for the Amy Wade Fund. Todd Thomas spoke with Richard Sargent and Mr. Sargent doesn't believe there is a legal document for the Amy Wade Funds and it has been the Trustees who have established what it will be used for. The Trustees feel we should use the fund for what it was intended for and to preserve the principal. Penny will check to see if we can merge the two funds for and to get a definitive explanation as to what the Amy Wade Funds can be used for. If Amy Wade Funds are only used for beautification projects, then maybe we do need a separate Special Projects Fund. Penny will work on updating the Amy Wade Fund policy for the Board to approve. Todd stated that the Country Club did not get the funds they requested from the Selectboard to rebuild the porch and refinish the interior hardwood floors and that the Trustees can expect the Country Club to request funds from either the Amy Wade Funds or the Special Projects Funds to refinish the hardwood floors.

- a. Management Update. A 50 kW solar field is being proposed at the Becht residence on Churchill Road. The utility is researching whether we can require the owner to pay for a line upgrade in order to handle the change in load. Staff met with consultants regarding the BOD rate structure and they are going to revisit a different approach. Stowe Electric would like to add an underbuilt on the transmission line we purchased from GMP in 2009. It is very preliminary but we may be able to get Stowe and GMP's assistance in rebuilding this old line. The audit is done and went well. We hope to have financials in June for the Board to approve.
- c. VPPSA Board meeting update. The board had no further questions/comments on the written update provided by Penny.
- d. Any other Business to come before the meeting. None.

9) PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

10) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:54 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (3-0) to go into executive session to discuss 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 7:35 PM.

10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Chairman Fortune, the board approved (3-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

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Attest: Tom Snipp