

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE  
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2022  
Wednesday

5:30PM  
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Carl Fortune, Robert Heanue and Brad Limoge (via Zoom)

Staff: Penny Jones, Kevin Newton, Pete Crowley

Public: Todd Thomas

Absent: Todd Deuso, Tom Snipp

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Fortune called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

\*\*\*\*\*TOWN PLAN PUBLIC HEARING\*\*\*\*\*

The Chairman opened the Town Plan Public Hearing at 5:30 PM. Todd Thomas noted they made it through a Selectboard meeting without changing the Town Plan. Assuming no further changes are made tonight, both Boards can vote on the plan at their second meeting of the month of May. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) to close the public hearing on the Town Plan.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 20, 2022:

Trustee Limoge pointed out a typo in Item 5, section c – “Penny’s” should read “Penny”. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) the amended minutes of the regular meeting held on April 20, 2022.

4) APPROVE CHECK REGISTERS 4/21, 4/22 & 4/26:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (3-0) check registers 4/21, 4/22 & 4/26.

5) APPROVE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR JOINTLY APPOINTED BOARDS:

At Trustee Heanue’s recommendation, Todd Thomas amended the rules to add in the grandfather clause that existing out-of-town board members as of May 4, 2022, can serve their term and are eligible to be reappointed if the Trustees and Selectboard want to reappoint them regardless of residency. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) the amended Rules of Procedure for Jointly Appointed Boards.

6) APPROVE TOWN ZONING INVOICE:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) the Town Zoning invoice.

8) APPROVE COPLEY COUNTRY CLUB REQUEST:

CCC requested funding from the Special Projects Fund to refinish club house floor for \$5,697 with a \$5,000 contingency. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) granting the Copley Country Club up to \$10,697 from the Special Projects Fund.

7) APPROVE HUTCHINS TIER 3 INCENTIVE OPPORTUNITY:

Previously VPPSA asked if MW&L could provide an incentive to the Hutchins Street project because they were putting in 24 heat pumps. At that time, we committed to \$3200 which would give us 350 megawatt-hour equivalents to our Tier 3 REC's. Hutchins Street is moving forward with an electric hot water heater which could give us an additional 220 megawatt-hour equivalents if we offer an incentive. It was suggested \$5-\$15/megawatt hour equivalent. If we had to buy Tier 3 REC's it would cost about \$30. Penny recommended \$2200 which works out to \$10/megawatt hour equivalent. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) offering \$1100 (\$5/megawatt hour equivalent) while giving the Manager the option of upping the offer to \$2200.

9) APPROVE LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

Penny received a call from Eric Dodge, who is working on the Town's local hazard mitigation plan indicating the Town's Hazard Mitigation plan was looking great but he found out the Village needed to be included or the Village would have to do their own. Eric modified the Town by adding the Village wherever it needed to be and now it just needs the Trustees' approval. If approved by the Trustees, the Chairman of the Selectboard and the Chairman of the Trustees would need to sign the plan and have it notarized. Penny has not read through the plan but felt comfortable that Eric, with the assistance of a consultant and Vermont Emergency Management, had a good product. The Chairman also has not read it but Trustee Heanue scanned it and felt if it was good enough for the Town, and they paid for it, and they would allow us to piggyback along then he was all for it. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

10) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Management Update. Bulk water sales have restarted for the season. BOD sampling at the WWTF was reviewed.

Customer jobs have really picked up. Next week we need to de-energize Sub #3 for the contractor and we will use that time to examine and exercise the reclosures and disconnects. The lead time for a replacement bucket truck is 3 years so we will begin the bid process.

Penny & Jim met with Stowe to discuss net metering and we are going to try to adopt many of Stowe's policies. There may come a day when we have to say no more solar because our infrastructure will not handle more.

b. Barton Sale Update. John Morley, Orleans Village Manager is going door-to-door telling people it's not a good idea to sell to VEC. VPPSA surveyed many Barton Village residents to get out the vote. For the sale of an electric utility, the vote has to have at least 60% approval of registered Village voters. If the sale were to be approved by voters, it then goes to the Public Utility Commission which is where non-voting ratepayers can become involved. VPPSA and Morley are trying to keep Barton a municipal utility.

c. VPPSA Update. VPPSA is moving forward with AMI by meeting with Aclara to firm up the contract and meeting with TD Bank to firm up the financing. MW&L is looking at 2023-2024 for implementation. The State is still pushing for a low-income rate through a possible surcharge on utility bills. MW&L has asked VPPSA to convey that 1) we don't need it because we already have very low rates, 2) we don't believe they have the jurisdiction to mandate this, and 3) if they force this, we want to have a say in how it is done. We are already paying over \$500,000 per year to Efficiency Vermont with very little return. VPPSA is attending a cyber-security meeting on our behalf. There is still some discussion about whether we want to allow the VHFA WRAP program on bill financing (VHFA lends money to low-income homes for efficiency programs that we put on their bills and act as the collection agent).

d. Any other Business to come before the meeting. None.

11) PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

12) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:34 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Heanue, 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; b) discussion of 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. The board came out of executive session at 6:59 PM. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) offering the position of Manager to Scott Johnstone.

13) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

Chairman Fortune adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.

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Attest: Robert Heanue