

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2022
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

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

Staff: Penny Jones, Kevin Newton

Public: Todd Thomas, Laura Streets, Paul Trudell (via Zoom)

Absent: Todd Deuso, Pete Crowley

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 4, 2022:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 4, 2022.

4) APPROVE CHECK REGISTERS 5/2 & 5/12:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) check registers 5/2 & 5/12.

5) APPROVE TOWN PLAN:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) the Town Plan.

6) APPROVE JOINT BOARD RULES:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge. Penny noted the most recent version included language after the Selectboard meeting that adds, under the appointment section, "however if no Village or Town residents on the voter check list step forward to serve within a month of vacancy the Legislative bodies may appoint a non-Town or Village resident to fill the vacancy". The only other change she saw was the date on the bottom was changed to May 1st for the new residency requirements for existing board members. Todd Thomas joined the meeting and noted that one of the changes was per the Trustees and one per the Selectboard. Trustee Heanue would like the date changed back to May 4th. Laura Streets (DRB) spoke to the Trustees about concerns she had with the vacancy change section of the joint rules. Paul Trudell of Hyde Park is a member of the DRB that will be affected by the new language also spoke to the Trustees about the vacancy change. With the revision of the date in the footnote from May 1st to May 4th, the board approved (4-0) the Joint Board Rules.

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Management Update. The pressure transducer at the .4-million-gallon reservoir is not communicating. We have some solutions, such as using a less-sophisticated transducer, but are bringing in a consultant to check it out. In the meantime, we are going up every morning to verify the water level. At the WWTF the SBR VFD cabinet's cooling fans failed. A box fan is being used until repairs can be made and we have added checking the cooling fans to the operations check list. FERC came to do their annual inspection of the Green River dam and dike. Other than some trimming we need to do, the inspection went well.

Pete was able to use a lot of the spare parts for Sub #3 that were ordered under one engineer that our new engineer said we didn't need.

Penny received an email from Rock Art and Soulmate regarding ARPA Pretreatment grant funding. Penny is trying to find out more about it as it appears that we, the municipality, needs to be the acceptor of the grant and we just turn the money over to the grantees. There is going to be a MOU that the Board will need to approve and sign that Penny will have at the next meeting once she has talked to the State of Vermont Grant Aid Division regarding MWL liability / responsibility to the grantees and the State. There was a meeting today of the VPPSA board members on the low-income docket that VPPSA is filing on our behalf to lay out the path that the municipalities, as a whole, want VPPSA to follow. We are still going to ask the PUC to reconsider whether or not we feel like they have the right to be doing this. They have the right to ask individual utilities to do a low-income rate but not the State as a whole. We are going to point out that our rates are lower than GMP's and offer them some other additional feedback. Penny met with the new Manager today and he plans to start June 20th.

b. Gristmill update. We do not yet have a police report or cause for the fire that destroyed the Gristmill. The Vermont State Police did a partial investigation but there are concerns about safety in getting to the river-side of the property. They have asked to be there when we hire an excavator to clean up the property. There was an electrical connection to the building to run the ornamental street lights but the fire started on the opposite side of the building. Otherwise, the building was completely empty. It had been assessed for contaminants so it was clean. Kevin tried to line up some dumpsters from Casella but Casella wants asbestos testing done first. As it was an abandoned building, there was no insurance (you cannot get insurance on abandoned buildings). We may have liability insurance on the property through VLCT. The Creamery building next door, which we also own, got a little singed. We will have to pay for cleanup but not for use of the Town's excavator as MW&L contributed funds for that excavator a number of years ago.

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

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Laura Streets asked if the Trustees had a written conflict of interest policy similar to the Selectboard, DRB and Planning Commission. Todd had asked that previously and Penny found out that we do not have one and we are supposed to have one so it is something we will be working on in the next month or two. Laura is very interested in conflicts of interest where board members are serving on multiple boards. There is a group looking at getting a charter for Morrystown which is a long, drawn-out process. The Secretary of State says you can serve on multiple boards unless you have a governance charter preventing it. As the Village already has such a charter, the Trustees could vote that members are not allowed to serve on multiple boards.

9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:40 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) 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 6:45 PM.

10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM.

Attest: Tom Snipp