

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2022
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Travis Knapp, Robert Heanue, Brad Limoge and Carl Fortune

Staff: Scott Johnstone, Pete Crowley and Kevin Newton

Guest: Kristen Marriott and Thomas Cloutier, Ken St. Amour (VPPSA)

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2022:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 7, 2022.

4) CHECK REGISTERS (ACTION):

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (5-0) check registers.

5) ADVANCED METER INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORIZATION (ACTION):

Ken St. Amour (VPPSA) was present to answer any questions. Aside from the many advantages of AMI, the State is mandating reporting and program requirements starting in 2024 that cannot be done without AMI. We will no longer have to rely on our customers to notify us of an outage! It also makes good economic sense even without the ARPA funds the State has set aside to assist utilities that have not moved to AMI. Ken has been tasked with learning the technology side of AMI. Think of it as a private, wide-area network that will provide data every 15 minutes. Trustee Heanue pointed out that our first foray into smart meters in the Jersey Heights area had 60% of the potential customers opt-out. Scott stated that customers will still be given the option to opt-out but he believes that far fewer will this time. Many of the services you can now get from a modern utility are based on the ability to know what's going on through smart meters. For example, anyone looking at battery storage will require our being able to manage peak flows through AMI. We have not looked at a financial incentive for people to opt-in because we believe the services AMI will provide will be incentive enough. We are looking at a roll-out of mid-2023. On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board authorized the general manager to enter (5-0) the AMI agreement with VPPSA at terms at or superior to those provided by VPPSA in preparation for this meeting. Scott wanted to thank Ken St. Amour for his work in enabling the municipals to take advantage of this opportunity.

6) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Management Update. Trustee Limoge thanked Kevin and his staff for their assistance with his sewer line. No exact cause was found for the fire that destroyed the Gristmill. It was either arson or a campfire that got away from someone. We will work on a broken hydrant in the Industrial Park area on Saturday to limit the disruption to the local businesses.

Pete appreciated the Board approving the truck budget at the last meeting. In trying to clean up our yard, we had a visit from Barton Electric who has shown interest in purchasing our 2400 transformer that we no

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longer require. We also have a trailer of junk transformers that will be shipped out to the highest bidder for refurbishing. We are looking at installing a fence to protect MW&L from the liability of someone climbing on our equipment and getting hurt. The proposed fence would not hinder access to Ward's Field. Trustee Fortune asked what the timeline was for a rate case. First VPPSA is conducting an evaluation to see if we need a rate increase, when we need a rate increase and how much of a rate increase is needed. Trustee Fortune asked Scott to provide the Board with the calculations and methodology for the proposed BOD rate so they can review it before their next meeting. Scott agreed and stated he had actually slowed the process down to make sure our consultant was using standard methodologies and not something totally unique to Morrisville. He will have that information to the Board before their next regular meeting on October 5. He will also sit down with all of the high-strength customers and go through the numbers and methodology before the 5th. ISO-NE has all the utilities doing black-out planning and it has nothing to do with MW&L system, it has to do with the fact that there is only enough natural gas for southern New England for heating and electricity. If we have a very cold winter, ISO-NE will be asking every utility to take turns in rolling 2-hour blackouts. Scott feels this is the result of poor ISO-NE planning over the last 20 years. Our plan is to make it non-viable to shut down the Lamoille pocket by making sure our hydro plants are hammering generation. We are making sure our plants are ready to crank at any moment this winter. To that end, the repair parts for Cady's Falls will arrive next week and we are hoping it will be back on line in the next couple of weeks. Long-term, we might implement interruptible rates for homes/businesses with generators and look into battery storage systems. It is believed that this is a 5-10 year problem for ISO-NE and, as battery storage and offshore wind come online, this shortage will go away. VPPSA is working for all the utilities to develop a communication plan. ISO-NE's plan is to hope for a mild winter and "hoping" is not a plan. We have begun developing a plan to man the plants, in such a scenario, to keep them online.

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

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Cloutier asked how MW&L plans to inform/instruct customers about possible rolling blackout. Scott stated that VPPSA is working on one set of talking points for all the utilities so we are all saying the same thing to eliminate any confusion. We will then begin a media campaign using social media, our newsletter, our website, etc. Chairman Snipp replied we need to be clear that rolling blackouts are not due to something MW&L has or has not done, or even the State, but ISO-NE.

Kristen Marriott asked what type of projects would fall under the Special Projects Fund. There is a full list of projects that would qualify on our website. The key is that MW&L is just the funder so projects have to be "shovel ready" and ready to be implemented quickly. Chairman Snipp pointed out that anything to do with roads or sidewalks was the Town's responsibility and would not qualify. Scott also stated that the last couple of years have been at a disadvantage with the Village Meeting being held in August and the funds needing to be dispelled before the end of the calendar year. Next year, when the Village Meeting moves back to April, residents will have more time.

8) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

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9) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board adjourned (5-0) the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Attest: Travis Knapp