

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2023
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT: (z = attended via zoom)

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

Staff: Scott Johnstone, Penny Jones, and Pete Crowley

Absent: Travis Knapp

Public: Tom Cloutier, David Ring (z), Ann Wildman (z), Barry Russo (z)

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 DECEMBER 21, 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 December 21, 2022.

4) CHECK REGISTERS (ACTION):

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

5) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. 2023 Budget Draft, presentation and discussion.

Scott shared that the water and wastewater budgets have not substantively changed since the last meeting and as such, unless the Trustees have new or lingering questions on those budgets, the focus of attention should be on the electric budget. Trustees were comfortable with this assessment.

Scott noted that a few minor changes were made to the electric budget since the one Trustees saw on December 21st but they do not change the large deficit in the budget. The team developed a menu of eleven budgetary choices for consideration that could help to narrow the gap. This menu included options to defer capital expense, move capital projects from pay as you go to taking on debt, and finding ways to adjust budget spending, revenue, and or cash. Of the eleven, Trustees were uncomfortable with the idea of planning to do capital projects with debt service as an annual practice. They also felt some of the very small adjustments considered were not useful to solving the problems. There was also concern in relying on savings based on hoped for improved hydro electric performance or in budgeting for non-operating cash appearing that is subject to negotiations that have not yet occurred. Finally, the Trustees shared concern that the Green River fund not be overly depleted nor used extensively to fund operational costs. Management will take this input and bring back a final budget for vote at the next meeting. Relatedly, current planning is to have the rate increase take effect after the 45 day wait period, rather than wait for PUC approval. This may require a true up on bills if the PUC approval comes in less than our request. However, this action will help make the 2023 budget work better.

b. Annual and long-term planning.

a) Scott shared both an annual plan for MWL as well as a rough plan that covers issues through 2030. The purpose of the annual plan is to have a place to see and understand all of the issues that will require action and discussion in 2023, including by the Trustees. The longer-term plan simply highlights the wide array of issues that must be addressed in coming years. Largely, Trustees expressed support for this planning activity while noting they would like the sale of real estate to move up to 2023. Management will work to make this occur.

c. Management Update.

Most discussion centered on the incredible job the electric linemen and the entire MWL team did in the recent wind storm on December 23rd. Trustees expressed their appreciation and gratitude to all on the team. Updates on other water, sewer, finance, and hydro were also reviewed per the provided memo. Scott also provided updates from that day's VPPSA meeting, noting, of importance, that the contract for MWL to receive wind energy from Main has been executed and power received as of January 1st of 2023.

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Ring asked both about the current status of the safety of Green River Reservoir dam and our ability to generate power there with the ANR restrictions. Scott noted both remain in process with a hope they will be resolved in 2023. Tom Cloutier expressed his gratitude for the great job done in the recent wind storm.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Discussion of item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(1)(E).
Not necessary

8) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board adjourned (4-0) the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Attest: Robert Heanue