

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2023
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

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

Staff: Scott Johnstone, Penny Jones, Kevin Newton and Pete Crowley

Public: Todd Thomas and Josh Goldstein

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) adding Verizon/Copley Country Club revenue as Item 3b and the DRB appointment as Item 3c.

3a) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 4, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 4, 2023.

3b) VERIZON/COPLEY COUNTRY CLUB REVENUE:

Every year, Verizon pays Copley Country Club a lease payment for equipment on Village property. Copley sends 10% of that revenue to the Village. MW&L staff just needs to know where to book the revenue – Special Projects fund or Amy Wade fund. Trustee Heanue verified that we currently have more leeway with the Special Projects fund than the Amy Wade fund. For the last two years, the lease payment went to the Special Projects fund. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (5-0) directing management to take the necessary actions to place the Verizon/Copley funds in Village accounts with the intent of reserving them for Special Projects per past practices.

3c) DRB APPOINTMENT:

Chairman Snipp wanted to state for the record that he had a potential conflict with the next Agenda Item and is recusing himself from participating in this Item. He is passing the gavel to Trustee Travis Knapp to proceed.

Last week, one of the DRB members resigned which was accepted yesterday by the Selectboard. The Trustees had agreed with the Selectboard that to fill vacancies, alternates should be included in the pool of candidates. In this case there are two alternates and both are interested in serving: Donnie Blake and Christy Snipp. Christy is the more senior alternate but Donnie was recommended by the member that resigned. On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) the appointment of Christy Snipp, as the most senior alternate, to fill the vacancy on the DRB.

Todd Thomas, before he left the meeting, took the opportunity to give the Board members a memo about the Town Plan that talks about starting a committee to bury the power lines in the core of downtown Morrisville – Portland, Lower Main, Bridge St. Todd thinks that for the Selectboard to form a committee as they usually do would be somewhat fruitless. He would like to see if the Trustees, at a future meeting as a warned Agenda Item, wanted to discuss forming a committee. Todd is happy to staff it, sit on it or not, it was up to the Trustees. In order for this committee to go anywhere, it needs Water & Lights buy-in.

This is obviously not intended to be a permanent committee because once the utilities are underground, the committee is over. But it is intended to be a longer-term commitment. The funding mechanism besides grant funding is to create a special tax district where a certain zone in town would pay a small, additional tax every year. Once that kitty was big enough, the next time the State comes through to pave, we can put the utilities underground. A very expensive item, a long-term item, but he thinks Stowe looks fantastic since they buried their power lines. Trustee Heanue verified that Stowe bonded for that project and Morrisville could also. A special tax district was created for the Cady's Falls water project. Josh Goldstein added that we are doing a lot of work to make downtown look better and it is hidden by a lot of wires. Scott stated that we needed to have an in-house discussion on this potential project before scheduling any meetings with the Selectboard. The gavel was returned to Chairman Snipp at this time.

4) CHECK REGISTERS (ACTION):

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

5) 2023 BUDGETS (WATER, SEWER & ELECTRIC):

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) the 2023 budgets for the water, sewer and electric departments.

6) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Water & Sewer SCADA Demonstration

Kevin gave the board a demonstration of the SCADA system for the water department. We have replaced the dedicated phone lines (that were prone to failure) with cellular communications. There was a brief discussion about the cybersecurity of the new system.

b. Hydro Capital Needs Discussion.

Now that we have some momentum with our discussions with the State, we need to have some serious discussions about capital upgrades our plants will need. The 401 Water Quality Permit will require capital investments of over \$4 million in addition to required maintenance of \$3.5 million. Combined \$1.2 million is for the Morrisville Plant #2, \$2.4 million is for Cady's Falls Plant #1 and \$4 million for Sanders Plant #3 (Green River). We would be looking at \$4+ million to decommission Plant #3. If we decommission Plant #3, we would still be responsible for the maintenance of the facility (or what was left of it). The State has settled on an engineer to conduct the dam safety analysis and should have results in 6 months or so. Kleinschmidt Associates is working on new inundation maps.

c. Management Update.

We had 3 broken poles resulting from the Christmas storm and lost several Hendrix brackets on the B22 line. We are finalizing a tree trimming contract. Dino Fernandes passed his 1st Class Lineman class.

Hydro's focus has been on Cady's Falls. The vertical unit got a modified bearing arraignment to keep the unit running until it can be rebuilt. The horizontal unit is off line again due to a shift in the 40' shaft.

Penny believes that FEMA is collecting damage reports on the Christmas storm. MW&L had approximately \$70,000 in extra costs due to that storm and we hope to recover 75% from FEMA.

Scott is looking at April 10th for the Annual Village meeting. The State will make a decision by January 26th as to whether Annual meetings can be later in the year but Scott sees more benefits keeping our meeting in April. This allows more time for the “special projects” process to occur and allows us to get community approval prior to construction season. The Board would like to have the Annual Village meeting on April 10, 2023, at the Morrisville VFW. With each passing week, ISO feels it is less likely that rolling blackouts will be needed this winter. Scott noted that during the Christmas storm, the market rates for power was \$2000/mWh because many generators in southern new England were off line.

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

7) PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

8) EXECUTIVE SESSION:
None

9) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the Board adjourned (5-0) the meeting at 7:01 PM.

Attest: Travis Knapp, Clerk