

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2023
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

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

Staff: Scott Johnstone, Penny Jones, Kevin Newton, David Heller

Guest: Sara Haskins

Public: Kathy Chaffee (via Zoom)

Absent: Travis Knapp

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

Staff wanted to change the order of items on the agenda, making Item #6 (2023 Annual Village Budget Item #5 and making Item #5 (Annual Meeting Warning) Item #6. They wanted to add Item #6a as Amy Wade report. They also wanted to add an Executive Session, discussion of item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(1)(B) Union Contract. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) adding Item #6a as Amy Wade report.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (3-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 15, 2023. Trustee Heanue abstained.

4) CHECK REGISTERS (ACTION):

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

5) 2023 ANNUAL VILLAGE BUDGET:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) the 2023 Annual Village Budget.

6) ANNUAL MEETING WARNING:

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

6a) AMY WADE REPORT:

The Board reviewed a summary of the Amy Wade fund. At some point, the Trustees will have to vote to change the Amy Wade policies. The current policy talks about the Amy Wade Fund growing by the rate of inflation every year which means there is rarely any funds available to invest in the community. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (4-0) to include the Amy Wade Fund report in the 2022 Annual Village Report with the deletion of the Copley Country Club Donations line (which is zero) and the Verizon Wireless Lease Payment line (which is also zero).

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Annual Meeting Discussion/Review

Residents may be able to view the Annual Meeting remotely or a video will be made available to view later. However, they will not be able to vote remotely. Even the Trustees who attend remotely cannot vote.

b. Integrated Resource Plan Development Update

As VPPSA is busy with rate cases, they received permission to file our IRP in May. Scott feels that the current dialogues coming out of the State House makes it more important to pay attention to the economics of the IRP. There are big economic advantages in favor of electricity today as an energy source in rural areas like Morrisville. Running equipment on electricity is cheaper than running on more traditional fuels. There are a lot of proposals going on at the state legislative level to essentially say that current renewables don't count as renewables, you have to build new renewables. This just adds costs for no outcome. Scott feels that we need to be very clear in this document that we are supportive of moving in the general direction the State is, moving to renewables, having customers initiatives, etc. But it has to be done economically. Utilities have to be the voice of our customers in that economics matter. Policies have to be economically viable.

c. Management Update

The State is having their public hearing (virtual only) on our rate increase on March 16th. It is tentative that Senator Welch will be in town next Friday and has asked to meet with the Village and the Town to discuss our needs and challenges.

No questions for the water and sewer department.

Trustee Heanue asked if the larger transformers were needed for Jersey Heights because the developer went with heat pumps instead of propane. Actually, the change was due to converting from the temporary service to the permanent service but David Heller is hoping that the transformer will be large enough as the heat pumps were not in their original load sheets.

The Governor assigned the Christmas storm as a FEMA declaration. We hope Vermont get approval from President Biden in 4-6 weeks and then we can start submitting documentation. If approved, we will be reimbursed up to 75%. We are pretty close to getting the rate increase line item added to our bills. It will not be included in final bills.

The Board wanted to thank David Heller for accepting the position of Electric Plant Superintendent.

d. Any other Business to come before the meeting.

Trustee Heanue wasn't at the last board meeting but he did read the proposal for a rec path off Bridge Street. He does not want to give away Village land but would be interested in swapping a 50' ROW from Bridge Street across the Lamoille Family Center land to our land-locked property and give them the piece that they want. He favors the rec trail but the Village should get something out of this.

8) PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

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9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, 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)(A) Contracts and to discuss item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(1)(B) Union Contract at 6:12 PM.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:28 PM.

10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board adjourned (4-0) the meeting at 6:28 PM.

Attest: Robert Heanue, Acting Clerk