

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2023
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

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

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

Guest: Todd Thomas

Public: Tom Cloutier, Alex (via Zoom), and Mary (via Zoom)

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 MARCH 15, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (5-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 15, 2023.

4) CHECK REGISTERS (ACTION):

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

5) GREEN RIVER FUND AUTHORIZATION:

As part of the budget process, the Trustees authorized using the VT Transco dividend and interest received in 2023 for operating expenses and the use of \$330,000 of the Green River Fund for capital projects. Our auditors will be looking for authorization in the minutes for use of these funds. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board authorized (5-0) staff to transfer the funds received in 2023 for the VT Transco dividends and associated interest received to operating cash. This amount is estimated to be approximately \$430,000. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board authorized (5-0) staff to withdraw up to \$330,000 from the Green River Fund to be used for capital projects in 2023.

6) CASH FLOW BANK ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION:

Penny would like to open another bank account at the Union Bank for the automated on-line payment system to accept ACH payments. This account would act as a holding account until the funds can be properly transferred to the correct department's checking account. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board authorized (5-0) staff to open a new bank account for the purpose of facilitating bank draft payments in conjunction with our new on-line billing platform. All existing accounting and finance policies and procedures shall apply to this account upon its opening.

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Final preparation for Annual Meeting.

Sara Haskins is all set for the annual meeting and Scott has reached out to her to see if there is anything further our staff can do to prepare the VFW for the meeting. Although we have met all notification requirements, we will again post on FPF and Facebook about the upcoming meeting. The Board was provided with a printed copy of the Annual Report. Shap Smith will be in attendance but will have to be elected as moderator before he can act as moderator. The meeting will NOT be on Zoom and you can only vote in person.

b. Rules for Joint Appointment to Boards.

Tom Cloutier would like to see more people involved in the various boards. In the past, not enough people were volunteering for boards so some board members ended up serving on multiple boards. Now there seems to be a push for more residents to be involved, evidenced by the fact that 11 people have applied for the one vacant Selectboard position. Also, as development in the town has really taken off, the work of the individual boards has also taken off and may be too much for one person to be on two boards. He also believes new members with new/different ideas and perspectives is needed. Tom would like to see the Trustees and Selectboard agree to change the rules so that you can only serve on one board at a time. Todd Thomas has other minor changes that he would like to propose, if the Boards do decide to amend this rule. Trustee Heanue would like to see the Selectboard do it first but the Selectboard will not have the time to address this anytime soon due to budget battles.

c. Management Update

The new bearings for the horizontal unit at Cady's Falls arrived today. ERG feels that our crews are fully capable of installing those bearings. Hopefully that unit will be back on line by the end of the day tomorrow. Now that ERG has the template, we will see how much it will cost to have a spare set produced. ERG is also working on a quote and contract for the rebuild of the vertical unit which we hope to have by Friday. Green River is online in anticipation of a peak tonight. Even with Cady's Falls completely offline, generation is ahead of our 10-year average. The new generator has been installed at Well #3 and the Caterpillar representative will be here on the 14th to fire it up.

Staff spent a lot of time working with mPower to learn how to update our maps and better use them and the outage management system (OMS). David's staff has been collecting field data to update our maps as no updates have been entered for approximately two years. We have talked about electrification, but are now seeing it happen, that someone needed a larger transformer due to a car charger. Currently our policy is the customer pays for these upgrades. As customers go more electric, we may soon not even buy 10 kVa transformers as they will be too small for most applications. 74 Portland Street wants to upgrade their electric service in order to operate their brewery equipment. We have a new 1st Class Lineman, Nick Leblanc, which makes our electric crew fully staffed for the first time in over two years. That means that Stowe Electric is no longer assisting our on-call schedule. We've communicated our appreciation and thanks to Stowe Electric.

The auditors were supposed to be onsite a couple of weeks ago but had to change plans and we have been doing much of the audit via email. We are looking at 75% recovery of costs from FEMA for the Christmas storm. We are trying to include the damage to the horizontal unit at Cady's Falls but we have to go through our insurance first. We had no public attendees at the State hearing for our rate case. We have also had no comments from customers with the rate increase that went out on the March bills.

The development of the integrated resource plan continues with recent modeling completed for the growth of the electric utilization. While growth will be modest under current use conditions, if the state policies encouraging electrification of transportation and heating are widely adopted, we were wondering what the impact would be. As a result, we had our consultant model a “high use scenario” that presumed 100% adoption of electrification by 2042. In that scenario, our electric load increases from 8.5 MW today to between 19 and 29 MW in 2042 depending on how successful we may be in managing when electricity is used. 29MW is the result if electricity is used in a spiky manner as it is today. 19 MW is what occurs if we use precisely the same amount of load 24 hours a day (not possible). So, the outcome will be in the middle or around a tripling of load. This is important information as it helps us to understand what upgrades to our transmission and distribution may become necessary in the coming 20-year period. The IRP is due to the state in May and we are on track for its submittal.

e. Any other Business to come before the meeting. – none.

8) PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the Board approved (5-0) to go into Executive Session to discuss item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(1)(E&F) at 6:27 PM.

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the Board approved (5-0) coming out of Executive Session at 6:53 PM.

10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the Board adjourned (5-0) the meeting at 6:53 PM.

Attest: Travis Knapp, Clerk