

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 16, 2023,
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Travis Knapp, Robert Heanue, and Carl Fortune
Staff: Scott Johnstone, Penny Jones, Kevin Newton, and David Heller
Guests: Sara Haskins (Town/Village Clerk)

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: None.

3) APPROVE VILLAGE TAX RATE:

Sara Haskins presented the proposed Village tax rate for 2023 of \$0.0048, which represents a decrease of 32%. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (4-0) the Village tax rate for 2023 of \$0.0048.

4) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JULY 19, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 19, 2023

5) CHECK REGISTERS:

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

6) REMOVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (4-0) to remove Tim Magee from the position of Planning Council member.

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Cash Flow Management for 2023:

Per authorization from the Trustees, we have entered into a short-term debt agreement with the Union Bank and dissolved the water money market account. As this flooding event is a lot more complicated than Winter Storm Elliot, we are going to need to float more money before FEMA can reimburse us for both events. Management had originally planned on using the Green River Funds to provide short-term financing of the rebuild of the Cady's Falls vertical unit. As those funds may now be needed to cover flooding expenses before reimbursement, management is looking at a straight construction loan for the CF vertical unit which would then roll over to a long-term loan when work is completed.

b. Management Update:

Penny informed the Trustees that the 2022 loan for GPS of water system will turn into a grant. The reappraisal of Plant 2 has come in significantly lower once the appraisal was based on revenue. She has been working with our billing software company to determine how much we need to refund to customers due to the rate case coming in lower than filed. Penny is hoping to get a waiver on refunds less than \$2. Scott and Penny are reevaluating our 2023 work plan. One item that may be pushed to 2024 is a new finance system. VPPSA is coming around to the idea of creating a financial platform that everybody could use, thereby lowering everybody's costs. If VPPSA can commit to going fast, before AMI, then we will not have to try to go it alone.

Trustee Heanue stated that he is not interested in extending the water infrastructure outside of the village to the airport area. We did that for Hannaford's 20 years ago and are still struggling with who owns what. We don't need to get into that again. Potable water is too valuable a resource to start pumping tens of thousands of gallons of water to a gravel pit (that will eventually be an industrial park).

The vertical unit at Cady's Falls has been disassembled by ERG. Pieces are being trucked to ERG's facility in New Hampshire to be measured. Both ERG and John Tilton confirmed that this machine was never built to be taken apart. Trustee Heanue asked and Kevin verified that the bearings were cooled by river water and not potable water. The proposed logging at Bugbee Springs is a simple forest management selective cut job. We will delineate for them where the actual water sources are.

Dave is pleased with the progress that HBros is making trimming ROW's. They are averaging 1 mile/week. It takes approximately eight years to do the entire system. We think we can cut that down to seven years. The crews jumped into the repairs at Plant #2. The inter-sub tie between Sub 3 and Sub 5 has been repaired. We have permits from ANR and Army Corp to dredge the penstock at Plant 2 (approximately 4,000 yards). Currently we cannot even see the top of the penstock.

FERC conducted an unannounced site visit that resulted in two minor issues – one being a crack in the foundation of the Gristmill cellar hole. Instead of spending money to fence it off, which probably should have been done after it burned, we may propose to topple the remainder of the foundation.

The request for qualification for the Jersey Heights pump station is completed and we have submitted the qualifying engineering firm to the State for approval. We are in the process of having A&E perform the analysis to potentially raise sewer connection fees and water connection fees.

The IRP is approximately one month behind in filing. Now looking at an October submittal.

c. Any other Business to come before the meeting: None.

8) PUBLIC COMMENT: None

9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:26 PM, on a **motion** by Chairman Snipp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) to go into Executive Session to for the discussion of item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 - (a)1(B) human resources.

At 6:33 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (4-0) to come out of Executive Session.

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10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the Board adjourned (4-0) the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Attest: Robert Heanue, Clerk