

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2023,
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Brad Limoge and Carl Fortune

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

Public: None

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: None.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4.1) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 1, 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 November 1, 2023.

4.2) APPROVE MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING WITH SELECTBOARD HELD OCTOBER 25, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) the minutes of the joint meeting with Selectboard held on October 25, 2023.

5. CHECK REGISTERS:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) the check registers.

6. CONFERENCE ROOM NAMING: BOB PAGE:

The Board liked the proposed wording on the dedication and would like to invite Bob's sons to participate in the unveiling of a plaque. On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (3-0) dedicating the so-called round conference room at MWL facilities at 857 Elmore Street as the Bob Page Conference Room and directed management to have a plaque created to denote this dedication and hung above the entrance to the conference room.

7. INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN 2023:

Scott plans to keep the existing IRP on the website and then list this draft as submitted so the public can also review it. On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board authorized (3-0) management to submit the 2023 draft IRP to the state for its regulatory approval process.

8) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Legislative Breakfast follow on discussion:

The purpose of the breakfast was not for a specific outcome but to make our legislators aware of some of the things we are having to deal with. It also opens the door for them to ask for our input.

b. Management update:

Brian Quad has been flushing hydrants and working with Manosh to vector our lines. We received the first check of \$2,136.55 from logging at Bugbee Springs. This only represents two truckloads and they are just getting started. The ground is firm and they are doing a nice job with Mike Greene supervising. There is a market for red pine right now that we have a lot of and removing red pines lets light in for white pines to come in after.

Line crews replaced another ten poles on Stagecoach Road, most of them are older than 1960. We will probably exceed the 40-poles goal we previously set. We are winterizing the vehicles and just received another shipment of poles. Transformers are still greatly affected by supply delays. Our inventories are in good shape and if we order now for the spring work, we can stay ahead of the curve. Luckily, we have not had to deny any customer service due to a lack of transformers.

We finally got all the customer rate-increase refunds completed. We sent out approximately 200 checks, one as low as 53¢. Some checks will come back due to bad addresses and will be cancelled eventually. Budget work continues as does work on the new payment platform, Invoice Cloud. Our new go-live date is December 11th. We may actually begin with a soft launch, work out the bugs and then make the major announcement. It will really affect our “auto-pay” customers as they will have to re-register in the new system. We will have to watch disconnect notices carefully for a couple of months during this cross-over.

We got a look at our power supply budget from VPPSA. Increasing 5%, which is not good as purchased power represents 75% of our budget. This alone would represent a needed 3.5% rate increase. As old, less expensive, power contracts expire, they are being replaced with more expensive contracts that we really have no control over.

John Tilton is working on a draft water ordinance for the Board to review. Without an ordinance in place, we are not able to charge fees without a governing ordinance saying you can charge fees.

Scott listened in on a call with ISO-NE earlier this week for winter readiness. The upside is they are not looking at any high threat of rolling blackouts. They are paying a stipend to facilities with storage capabilities to increase their storage of fuel so they are not so dependent on what’s going on in the moment when it’s really cold and all the natural gas is going towards heat and not power generation. However, they are not increasing their own storage capacities. Long-range forecasts for the winter are normal precipitation but a little warmer.

Trustee Fortune asked how Scott felt the condemnation project would go. We expect that our legal strategy will result in our gaining the ability to replace the poles this winter as planned. We shall see what the PUC and court have to say on this matter.

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

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9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:08 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the Board approved (3-0) to go into executive session to discuss item(s) excepted from open meeting 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(B).

At 6:14 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the Board approved (3-0) coming out of executive session.

10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the Board adjourned (3-0) the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Attest: Brad Limoge, Acting Clerk