

Minutes of the Bill Ennen Conference Call with the Heath MLB
September 14, 2021 at 1 pm

Present: Last Mile Liaison, Bill Ennen

MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

MLB: Art Schwenger, Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, and Ned Wolf
with Jan Carr visiting

Sheila told Bill that we are still waiting for customers in both FSA 1 and FSA 2 to have their installations done. We are told by WG&E that installations will begin in FSA 3 September 27th and in FSA 4 November 1st.

Bill asked whether completing installations in FSA 4 will be needed to get 70%. Jan reported that there are now 403 valued locations in the CRM with 94 of them in FSA 4. She said that our PDU count is 475 to 500. Bill recalled our speaking of 500 premises earlier this summer. Sheila said that so far there have been 309 installations in FSA's 1, 2, and 3 per the CRM. Bill said that as soon as the number of installations gets near 70% of 500, or 350, we can move towards applying to the State for aid. It appears that installations in Mohawk Estates will be needed to reach 350.

Sheila asked if we get additional installs can we apply again? Bill said that he tends to move forward on applications for the sake of cash flow. David said that our installs in Mohawk Estates won't begin until November. Although more than 80 have signed up, it's possible that 50 or 60 installs won't happen until next spring. If that happens and we apply for a certain amount now, could we apply again next spring?

Bill said that he would have to talk with his CFO about it as a cash flow problem. June 30 of 2022 is the contract end date. He said he will start wrapping up May 1st. He added that if we have 500 premises, the maximum amount Heath will get is $0.70 \times 500 \times \$500 = \$175,000$.

David noted that in the CRM recently the number of premises is 610. Art asked how 'possible premise' is defined? Bill advised that we go to Brian Sullivan saying that we need resolution. Jan said we have been thinking that a possible premise must conform with our drop policy which requires there be electricity and a 911 number.

Sheila reported our frustration with the slowness of the installations in FSA 1 and FSA 2. MLB members spoke of having regularly reported on people waiting for installations in our meetings with WG&E. They spoke of concern that installations in FSA 4 may not occur before winter weather makes them impossible. Bill said that in his meeting this Monday he will mention Heath and emphasize that the state wants to get dollars out the door and he can't move unless milestones are met.

Art said that because Heath is the recipient of a Community Compact IT grant we're eligible for a Municipal Fiber grant. We are especially interested in help with backhaul. Bill said he did not know of this program but showed interest in researching it. Sheila sent him the link we received from Hilma.

Bill, Sheila, and the MLB agreed on the dates for the next 3 conference calls, all on Tuesday at 1.

Oct. 5

Nov. 9

Dec.7

Bill asked whether Heath has resolved whether ARPA funds will be used for broadband. He explained in asking that other communities have done this. The MLB told Bill that we are working on a letter to the Heath Select Board requesting their consideration for using ARPA funds that way. Bill said that his office and the MBI folks are advocating that if there is an infrastructure bill, say with \$65 billion for broadband, it will not be a success unless the money can be used to pay down debt.

Bill asked with regard to resiliency whether we have ordered the second MBI circuit.

Sheila replied yes. We have ordered the short term fix. We have also signed up for Phase 1 which is the long term solution.

David said that we've talked of still wanting a second circuit after getting a longer term solution. That would still require a monthly fee. At this time we are seeking more information about costs for a long term solution knowing that there could be a one time build cost and a recurring cost.

The meeting adjourned at 1:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf