

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
September 28, 2021 at 11

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger, Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, and Ned Wolf
with Jan Carr visiting, and MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

Art called the meeting to order at 11. Members read the minutes of the September 21st MLB meeting. Anne moved that they be approved. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the 1 o'clock construction meeting with WG&E and TriWire on September 21st. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with additions. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila reported attending a meeting at 9 am yesterday with the North geo-cluster. Colrain was the only one of the 5 towns not represented. Next Monday there will be a meeting with WG&E. It will be a working meeting with all towns wanting to be involved. The towns have asked WG&E for a design plan and agenda.

Members expressed interest in receiving copies of the agenda.

There is some concern that by keeping us connected to MBI the WG&E plan keeps us beholden to MBI. But WG&E's proposal is only to use MBI. One of the connections is with Verizon fiber.

Sheila said that Bob Handsaker has asked whether we have a performance bond with TriWire. She contacted Joe Parda and learned that WG&E has also been looking into that. We do have a retainer of about \$33K with TriWire. Joe thinks that \$33K would be about equal to the cost of hiring another contractor to do what's to be done. The \$33K is about equal to 5% of all the work that TriWire has done.

Anne asked whether the \$33K is a TriWire asset.

Sheila reported that she has heard through Joe that slicing and testing has been completed in FSA 3 and that FSA 3 was handed over to WG&E yesterday.

Sheila said that the Accountant has requested the FY22 Broadband Budget. She based it on Rowe's budget. The only income is Heath's share of the Wired West surplus which is about \$1,200. Construction bills have been coming out of the town borrowing account #39-5-192-002.

Members discussed 2 attachments that Sheila sent on September 27th: Town of Heath MLP Broadband Budget for FY22, and Fixed Assets/Infrastructure Depreciation Schedule. She said that Jim Drawe said that at the September 21st Meet and Greet John Leary said that the first

CAFI funding might arrive in the spring of 2022. Sheila thinks that it's when we get the CAFI funding that we first look closely at a depreciation reserve.

Art suggested that for the MLP Broadband Budget we might want to use the line 'Other Financing Sources' for MLB expenses such as postcards and mileage.

Members discussed the first of 3 Heath specific proposals from Cebula that Sheila sent as attachments on September 27th. The first proposal is for the installation of monitoring equipment at a cost of \$13,378.33 with an option to add an exterior camera. David has double checked the list of parts and found that we need just the 2 cameras that are part of the base proposal. Art said that the equipment in the proposal includes at least one sensor telling us whether the generator is on.

Anne asked about a statement in the proposal that programming of equipment is not included. David said that elsewhere in the proposal it says that Cebula will program their equipment.

Bill said that the cost does fall within the parameters of the project. Members said that we need to notify the Select Board that the \$13K will come out of our construction budget. Art asked whether the cost of monitoring is included with the other operational costs. David said that if it does get paid through Wired West, it will be different for each town. The second and third Cebula proposals are for annual monitoring and calibration. Both are operational.

Art said that the 24/7 monitoring is good, but it doesn't tell us what happens if the alarm goes off. David said that we have a separate circuit to Rowe that will send a message if we have a problem. He said that we could go with the installation now. The actual monitoring is something any company could do with the given equipment. The contract for installation is a construction contract. The signees are the MLB Chair and the Select Board Chair. The MLP Manager and one representative of the MLB will go to the Select Board meeting to explain our recommendation.

David moved that the MLB recommends that the Select Board sign the contract for proposal 15749, 9/23/21, for installing hut monitoring equipment by Cebula Electronics Corporation. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Invoice

This police invoice from last December has been sent by Hilma.

December 2020 Franklin County Sheriff's Office \$2400.

The invoice may have mistakenly been sent to TriWire first.

Anne moved that we approve paying the invoice to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office up to \$2400. pending research. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Anne said she talked yesterday with a Whip City contact person named Ted who said that that the ticket for the installation at Tim and Eileen Lively's house is closed. Anne reported Eileen's saying that it shouldn't be closed. Art said he thinks there is a contact person other than Ted. Bill recommended contacting Brian Sullivan in case the ticket shouldn't be closed.

Members agreed on the following schedule of October meetings.

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| Oct. 5 | 11:00 MLB |
| | 1:00 Bill Ennen conference call |
| | 2:00 Construction meeting with WG&E and TriWire |
| | 6:00 One MLB representative and the MLP Manager meet with Select Board
for 15 minutes regarding contracts |
| Oct. 12 | 11:00 MLB |
| | 2:00 Construction meeting with WG&E and TriWire |
| Oct. 19 | 11:00 MLB |
| | 2:00 Construction meeting with WG&E and TriWire |
| Oct. 21 | 6:00 FinCom meeting with at least one MLB representative |
| Oct. 26 | 11:00 MLB |
| | 2:00 Construction meeting with WG&E and TriWire |

There will be a need to present the broadband financial report to the Select Board during their meetings on October 12th and October 19th.

Members discussed a list Jan sent on September 26th of post 9/15 sign ups. David said that he would reconsider a subsidy for late comers if there's a way to commit them to one year of subscribing. He said that it appears that our total number of installations will exceed 70% of our number of premises. Bringing on more will not boost the amount of state aid for drops.

Jan asked about houses that have just recently sold. It is a situation where there are lots of costs. The installing of broadband is one of them.

Members applied a case by case evaluation to those on the list of post 9/15 sign ups. Ned moved that the following six people be offered up to the amount in the column to the right of their name.

	Up to
Daryl Heinicke	\$250.
Jedra Jarowslaw	\$250.
Mike Platek, under Nikki Brown	full cold drop subsidy
Paul Shulda	\$250
Susan Beston	\$250.
Steven Wiles	full subsidy

Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan said that just today 3 people at 221 Number Nine Road have signed up. We need to find out if there are 2 or 3 drops.

Anne made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 pm. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf