

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
October 12, 2021 at 11

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

Absent: Anne Emmet, Bill Fontes

Art called the meeting to order at 11. Members read the minutes of the October 5th MLB meeting at 11. David moved to approve the minutes. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed. Members read the minutes of the 1 pm conference call with Bill Ennen on October 5th. David moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed. Members read the minutes of the 2 pm construction meeting with WG&E and TriWire on October 5th. David moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

It was agreed that at the October 12 Select Board meeting Sheila and David would speak on behalf of broadband.

We now have 170 active and 236 waiting to be installed.

There was a consensus to send Bill Ennen an email that 589 is the number of possible premises from WG&E's cut sheet as sent to us by Joe Parda. David moved that Sheila send to Bill Ennen the number 589 as our number of possible premises and that she update the number of actives and the number of applications yet to be installed. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sheila said that she had expressed our concern in an email to Joe Parda that the total number of installations during the 3 months July – September was just 16. She relayed to us his reply that having 170 active installations out of a total of 246 PDU's in FSA's 1 & 2 is a 69% penetration which has been a typical average take rate.

Members considered the slow rate of installations and Bill Ennen's saying that we need to get from 170 to 350 within 6 weeks. There was a consensus that Sheila send to Brian Sullivan an email requesting an immediate meeting with him following our construction meeting with WG&E. We request today; otherwise next Tuesday. This is an urgent matter. The email will copy Chris, Joe, and Caitrin.

Invoices:

Sheila reported the following invoice:

10/5 #17 CNST, WG&E \$10,891.57

David moved that the above invoice be approved. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next invoice was

10/7 HE – ENG – 10001 \$221.52 for out of scope work due to a design change

David moved that the above invoice be approved. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was an October 5th invoice HE-SERV-10001, application no. 8, for \$23,169.47. Sheila has sent an email to Brian with questions about this. It combines operation fees and a town refund. The MLB will hold off on approving this until more is known.

The next invoice was

10/1 HEATH 001 from TriWire for weeks 45 – 48, \$7,877.40

David moved that the above invoice be approved. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sheila reported an October 1st invoice from TriWire for all retainers. There have been 2 previous invoices from TriWire for retainers. We were told that they were in error. The MLB wants to wait before paying a retainer to check that the work to be done has in fact been done.

Sheila and Art have received a letter from the law office of Casner and Edwards, LLP which is overseeing the TriWire bankruptcy. It includes a list of TriWire assets two of which relate to Heath: the construction contract and the rental agreement for a room at 18 Jacobs Road.

An email reply arrived from Brian Sullivan to Sheila's request for a meeting. Brian said he could meet on Tuesday October 19th. MLB members will attend.

Sheila said that Bill Ennen after the receipt of her most recent quarterly report has told her that he does not need any more quarterly reports.

Sheila said that she has called Kinsley twice but still has not received any updates regarding invoices for generator maintenance. David said that Joe Parada has sent an email reporting that the annual cost for the maintenance of Heath's generator is \$804.

On October 11 David met Sertex at the hut where testing of the Heath – Colrain fiber connection was completed.

We need to identify those customers for whom the cost of the drop is more than the subsidy. Those customers need to receive a letter similar to the one sent to the customer at 14 Center Heath Road stating how much is owed. Jan recommended that information be included about the availability of loans from Berkshire Bank. We need to receive a payment check before the drop is installed.

Jan reported having heard from various people that the internet service at the Center is worse than dial-up. David said that he will reach out to Shawn to get more information on the quality of the hot spot and whatever changes might have occurred.

Whip City Fiber has said that as of October 10th 33 installations have been scheduled between October 19th and October 30th.

David moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:51. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf