

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
December 7, 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 Nov. 30th MLB Meeting. Anne moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the Nov. 30th WG&E Installations Meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Anne moved that the minutes of the Nov. 30th WG&E Installations Meeting be amended so that the Next-to-the-last sentence is changed from 'Chris said that those 4 locations are fed by just 2 ONTs', to 'Chris said that those 4 locations are fed by just 2 ONTs but will be counted as 4 drops.' Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members read the minutes of the Nov. 30th WG&E Construction Meeting. Anne moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members read the minutes of the Dec. 1st MLB and Finance Committee Meeting. Anne moved to approve the minutes with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila reported that although the Select Board has expressed interest in the possibility of a contract with Kinsley to provide maintenance for all the town's generators, there has not been a reply from Kinsley about a bigger proposal than the one to maintain just the hut's generator. She has asked if there is a price break for a town-wide contract. She has told Hilma she will go ahead and sign the contract with Kinsley to maintain just the hut's generator.

Sheila said that the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA) has informed her of how impressed and pleased they are to have received the information about Heath's broadband network. They are preparing a proposal for insurance coverage for Heath's network that would be an add-on to the town's other MIIA coverage.

Sheila said that Chris LaVertu advises that Heath put aside \$21,681 each year for our fixed asset depreciation fund. Art recommended that we start this year. David advised a close look at Chris' message about the depreciation to check such things as whether the number of years is OK.

In the minutes of the Nov. 30th MLB meeting it is stated that the MLB approved an invoice:

11/23 HE CNST – 10001 – 18 14,562.01 WG&E

The \$14,562.01 is actually a credit. Nothing is due.

There was discussion of issues raised by 8 customers. A customer in Mohawk Estates at #15 Cheyenne Drive is eligible for 1 drop. Bill has tried to reach him by email and by leaving a phone message. There has been no response. Bill said he would email Jenny Hamilton about this customer. The committee agreed that we have done what we can to contact this person.

The MLB's advice to the customer asking about streaming is to contact Whip City customer support.

Customers at 612 8A do not want to be charged for a measuring mistake in the length of needed cable. Chris agreed that there should not be an extra charge.

Sheila will call the son of a customer who has an overdue bill.

There are customers whose original contact with Whip City was on Oct. 8th. There has been no installation yet. Sheila will tell them to call customer service. Customer service may not have the phone numbers needed to reach these people.

The customer on Schoolhouse Rd. was visited on Oct. 11 by a technician who hoped to do an install using the existing conduit. The technician determined that the conduit could not be used, and did not do the installation. Art heard from WG&E that they could not do the installation without the underground. Bill volunteered to drive by the house and check that an aerial connection is possible.

A customer has just bought a house on Bray Rd. The previous owner had signed up for broadband. The estimated installation charge is \$719. The new customer will get the drop credit subsidy.

David suggested that in those cases where the installation cost exceeds the \$250. subsidy we should let Whip City inform the customer that there is an excess charge. We will check with Betsy Loiko as to whether they can do that.

The security work by Cebula has not yet been done. David requested that Sheila contact Cebula to try to set a date for that work.

David said that Wednesday night there will be a meeting among the 5 towns in the North Geo-Cluster on writing a contract for sharing the cost of Crown Castle. There will also be a discussion of Leyden's situation in terms of being in a meshed network.

David said that we've already signed up with WG&E for the design of a backhaul redundancy solution. Important items separate from that include hooking up fiber connections between towns, installing switches, and monthly subscription to Crown Castle. The installing of switches will be done by contracts between each town and WG&E.

Members listed items to bring up in our 1 o'clock conference call with Bill Ennen: the status of work in FSA 4, 598 as the number of PDU's, our additional charge of \$8,075. for make-ready, the \$75 million earmarked for broadband debt in an amendment to recent legislation in Boston, the 107 out of 212 who have signed up in Mohawk Estates, and the date when CAF II funding is released.

Sheila said there would be an MLP Managers meeting on Dec. 8th and a WiredWest Board meeting on Dec. 15th at 6:30. She said that she has been keeping the Select Board informed about MIIA.

Jan praised the work of Whip City technician Danny. David suggested we pass that on to WG&E.

Anne reported that certain customers who had been experiencing problems with their installations have recently sounded more pleased with their setups.

Bill moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:41. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf