

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
December 14, 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 11:02. Members read the minutes of the December 7th MLB meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the 1 pm conference call with Bill Ennen. Bill Fontes moved to approve the minutes. David seconded the motion. The motion passed. Members read the minutes of the WG&E Installs Meeting. Anne moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the WG&E Construction Meeting. David offered several edits. Anne moved to approve the minutes with edits and corrections. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila said that she has completed the application to Kinsley for the maintainance of the hut generator and submitted it on December 7th.

Sheila reported that the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA) has prepared a rider to the existing policy to cover the hut and the network to the curb. The cost for the first year is \$8,384. When she checked with Jim Drawe as to how that compares with what other towns are paying, he said that it's in the ballpark. We will need to collaborate with the Select Board on how to pay for this. In future years WiredWest will handle the cost of insurance.

Bill questioned whether the \$225. portion of the \$8,384 which covers the hut would be the responsibility of the town. Sheila said that it seems to be an operating expense.

We might treat the \$8,384 as an operating expense to be taken out of the construction budget in the first year. Members asked about situations where drops incur storm damage. Does the insurance with a \$25,000 deductible that Jim Drawe spoke of at our meeting on November 18th apply to drops? Art said it seems unlikely that a repair crew hired by WiredWest would repair storm damage to the network but skip over drops. We need to ask Jim more questions.

Sheila said that Betsy Loiko has said that Whip City will take care of billing customers for the amount above the \$250. subsidy. After adding all potential amounts to be billed Sheila reported a total of \$6,664.95 that could be received. She has adjusted the summary overview tab for this amount.

There was some discussion of the Fixed Asset Depreciation Schedule. Has Chris been too conservative in his choice of years? We need to check the years used in other towns' schedules.

Sheila said that she plans to talk with Bill Ennen tomorrow morning December 15th. Members wondered whether or not Bill is aware that the town does not have 413 drops built as of now. Is he using the number of 'highly likely to be built drops' as the number of 'drops built now'?

Jan asked how many customers have had their service cut off due to lack of payment? Bill Fontes said the drop still counts even if the service has been cut off because Bill Ennen is looking just for placed drop wires.

David advised that we not get too bogged down in identifying the number of drops built until true-up in the spring.

Sheila said that WG&E has sent the draft of a service restoration policy that would apply when a person who doesn't pay gets disconnected. They ask for a response by January 17. Reportedly, Jim Drawe does not favor the current draft.

Bill Fontes noted that some of our customers are unsavvy about such things as automatic payment. Perhaps they should get one pass. Art advised that the matter be dealt with at a WiredWest meeting.

Sheila said she has not heard back from Cebula about the scheduling of their work at Heath's hut. She will send them another email.

Sheila said that she might have to miss the 2 pm WG&E construction meeting on December 21.

Art said that Ruth Corey's underground was done yesterday. Her installation is scheduled for December 23rd.

David said that Jim Drawe and others are working on a draft of sharing the cost of Crown Castle. The design engineer is on vacation. There might be a holdup due to getting the Crown Castle request in.

Sheila, Art, and David plan to attend the WiredWest meeting on December 15th.

Sheila said that in the not too distant future the MLP will need office space that is lockable. Could we use the former Assessors' office? We can bring this up with the Select Board at a joint meeting. Anne recommended that we make known the future space needs of the MLP at the time of our request. Art said he's willing to review a draft of a letter from him containing the request to the Select Board.

Members discussed customers in Mohawk Estates. Bill recommended that installers visit future installation sites prior to the day the installations are scheduled in order to prevent surprises. Art advised that Chris be informed of potential issues at upcoming installation sites.

David suggested we communicate to Betsy the importance of having a customer, who is expecting an installation visit, post the 911 number where it can be readily seen.

Ned moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:20. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf

