

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB  
December 21, 2021 at 11

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger, Anne Emmet, who joined the meeting late due to technical difficulties, David Gordon, and Ned Wolf  
with Jan Carr visiting, and MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

Absent: Bill Fontes

Art called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Members read the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> MLB meeting. David moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Members read the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> WG&E Installs meeting. David moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Members read the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> WG&E Construction meeting. David moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sheila reported that she and Bill Ennen have conferred by phone about a letter from the Select Board to Bill Ennen of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) to be brought to the Select Board the evening of November 21 for Robyn to sign. Bill has decided that we are close enough to having 70% of our eligible premises installed that he will ask for drop subsidies for the full 70%. That amounts to \$209,500.

In addition Bill will ask that Heath be reimbursed for \$6966. that the town authorized in an amendment to the IGA with WG&E to expedite underground work. Adding the \$6966. to the \$209,500. results in Heath's requesting \$216,466. from the state in the letter to the EOHED.

David requested from Sheila a copy of the IGA about expediting the underground work.

Moreover, Sheila said that the \$8,080 for a second rideout and the \$22,000 retainage will be cleaned up around May 22<sup>nd</sup>. She noted that we have already paid \$8,080. for the first rideout 2 years ago. Bill has a record that we got reimbursed for the \$8,080. Sheila will check the accounting reports for 2 years ago.

Art will ask Brian for backup documentation for the most recent invoice for \$8,080. in a second rideout.

Sheila reported that the new insurance coverage from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) won't start until January 18<sup>th</sup>. The first phase has an invoice of

approximately \$6K for the fiber network, drops not included. We will ask the Select Board to sign this at their meeting the evening of December 21<sup>st</sup>. The second phase having an invoice around \$2K is for the hut and its electronics.

Ned reported on his phone conversation with Jim Drawe on December 20<sup>th</sup> about insurance. Jim confirmed that no town has an insurance policy covering drops. He said that each customer as part of subscribing pays a \$99. Installation fee which he has been putting into a pot totaling more than \$150K. The MIIA insurance policies that the WiredWest towns have on their networks have varying premiums depending on the town's number of miles of fiber. But each of those policies has a \$25K deductible. Storm damage to a town's network that is under the \$25K deductible will be covered using money from the \$150K. Jim said that it is possible that storm damage to drops would also be covered by the \$150K.

Sheila has requested that there be a joint MLB and Select Board meeting on January 18 after 6:30 pm. Items on the agenda will include the contract with Kinsley for monitoring the hub generator, the Depreciation Reserve Account, the status of projects, possible information about closeout, and David's update on redundancy.

Sheila said that we've gone ahead with the Kinsley contract for maintenance of just the hub's generator..

Bill Fontes has talked with Chris Bradway of Mohawk Estates. Any volunteer plowing that Chris does will be worked out between him and WG&E.

Members discussed the POD which is in the parking lot at 18 Jacobs Road. Chris has said that they would like to keep the POD there until ITG is through. We will ask in the 2 o'clock meeting where they store the installation items we've paid for. These include NIDs, ONTs, and routers.

Sheila said that Cebula will be starting its work in the hub in January.

David will be attending a redundancy meeting the night of December 21<sup>st</sup> on allocating costs. Rowe cannot order service from Crown Castle until the other towns have signed a sharing agreement. It's possible that Rowe will bill the other towns for their share of the cost.

Art said he had attended the November 15<sup>th</sup> WiredWest Board meeting. He was told that no town has insurance for the drops. The total cost of repairing the damage to drops in a storm would likely be less than the deductible.

Members recalled Sheila's sending an email about WG&E's possible plan to have preventive maintenance rideouts twice a year at a cost of \$4K per rideout. Jim Drawe has challenged the labor rates for the rideouts. Members thought that having a rideout once a year would be sufficient. Some of the rideout could be done by the MLB.

Members shared David's interest in having a town protocol following such events as the downing of a utility pole. Following the breaking of a utility pole on 8A, Jim Drawe advised that we just phone him in the future.

Members discussed Art's draft of a rework of Sheila's draft stating the need of the MLP for a locked space where could store documents. Art's draft restates the MLB's space needs. He also notes that the former Assessors' office on the second floor of Sawyer Hall has sufficient space and would be conveniently near the hub. He acknowledges having heard that the Select Board may look into renovating the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Sawyer Hall.

Finally, Art said that it was voted at the Wired West meeting that starting in FY22 there will no longer be an annual assessment to member towns of \$1000. each since there is now income to WiredWest to cover WiredWEst expenses. Sheila will check into whether or not Heath has paid the \$1000. for FY22.

It was agreed to seek clarity from Joe Parda at the 2 o'clock meeting with WG&E about DigSafe information or information about the replacement of utility poles.

David moved to adjourn at 12:25 pm. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf