

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
September 14, 2021 at 11 am

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 11:01.

Members read the minutes of the September 7th Heath MLB meeting at 11. Anne moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members read the minutes of the September 7th WG&E Construction Meeting with TriWire and the Heath MLB. Anne moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila reported that she will work with Accountant David Fierro to take the \$52,231.15 for the HE-SERV-10001 invoice approved by the MLB on August 17th from the Broadband Drop Subsidy Account. She said that the Accountant has suggested that the payments from customers whose drop cost exceeds \$3000. also be put into this account. In the case of the payment check from the customer at 14 Center Heath Road, Bill pointed out that part of the payment is for extending the network and part for the drop cost. More consideration will be given to an appropriate account into which this payment will be deposited.

Sheila reported a CNST invoice of \$508.12. Anne moved to approve the invoice. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila said that the balance to finish the TriWire network construction contract is down to \$70K.

Sheila has asked the Accountant to give us the chart of accounts for operations.

She has picked up David Dvore's key to the box of electrical panels in the hub, but has not been able to get a copy made at Avery's because they don't have that pattern of key nor does Aubuchon's. Bill said he used David Dvore's key, opened the box of electrical panels in Heath's hub, and found a key in the box. He will still seek to have copies made.

Sheila said that she has spoken with a person at Kinsley about Heath's bills for generator maintenance having been sent to United Concrete. She has been expecting to see those bills resent to the Heath MLP.

Members agreed that the Finance Committee will want to learn more at their October 21 meeting about how much income Heath gets per subscriber.

Art said that Brian Sullivan will not be at the WG&E construction meeting this afternoon. Brian said that he would schedule biweekly meetings. That hasn't happened yet.

According to the CRM there are 20 people in FSA 1 and 13 in FSA 2 still waiting for their installations. WG&E explains this by saying either that they have been unable to connect with the person or that an installation is pending DigSafe.

Anne said that she could connect with Brian. Art said that whatever gets sent to Anne should also be sent to Sheila. There was a consensus that Anne talk with Brian on Tuesday afternoon after the other Tuesday meetings. The aim is to pull customer issues out of the construction issues that we discuss with Joe. If Anne finds that Brian can't handle a customer issue, the next person she goes to is Caitrin. Anne's emails about customer complaints should copy David, Caitrin, and if it's an underground, Chris.

Brian has responded to concerns expressed about scheduling installations in FSA 4 before winter weather arrives by saying simply that the work in FSA 4 will develop.

Bill recommended we request of WG&E that whenever 'MLP hold' is placed in the CRM, an email be sent to Art and Sheila explaining the hold.

Art spoke of a seasonal customer he knows who has returned to the Midwest. He said that the customer was told that she will be billed in the spring at the time of her installation. He will look into the details.

Art reported that 14 Center Heath Road is now included in the CRM. We will ask at 2 as to whether work has been done on that person's installation.

Sheila said that at 9 am on Monday, September 20th there will be a meeting of the 5 towns in Heath's geo-cluster to discuss plans for redundancy. All 5 towns have signed an agreement for Phase 1. Sheila and David will attend.

Looking ahead to the conference call with Bill Ennen, David added this question: When we submit an application to the State for reimbursement for drop installations, can we do that again in 2022 when people in FSA 4 return?

Ned added the question: What can Bill tell us about the Municipal Fiber Grant Program?

Members expressed their thanks to Anne for her adjustments to the broadband presence on the town website.

Members discussed the draft of David's letter from the MLB to the Select Board requesting "that they consider applying a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to the eligible expenses incurred in the building of the fiber network owned by the Town of Heath."

Members expect that in coming years the MLB will discuss the structuring of fees to cover operational costs.

David said that he will revise the letter and send it to members.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:27. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf