

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB with the Heath Select Board
January 18, 2022 at 7 pm
virtual meeting

Present: Select Board: Robyn Provost-Carlson (Chair), Brian DeVriese, Sue Lively;
Town Coordinator, Hilma Sumner, and Police Chief John McDonough
MLB: Art Schwenger(Chair), Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, Ned Wolf;
and visitor Jan Carr with MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

Art called the MLB meeting to order at 7.

Art listed recent events:

- Letter signed by Robyn sent to the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) as part of the process of receiving state aid for broadband drops
- Check mailed with agreement to Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA)
- Hilma will send us the invoice for recent preventive maintenance work done by Kinsley on the hut generator.

Art said that the end of construction requires the fixing of MSTs. That may be done by mid-February. Some installations must wait until spring. As of today 380 have signed up (not counting cold drops) and 293 have service.

Brian asked about the status of the redundancy project. David said that representatives of the Northern Ring Towns (Rowe, Charlemont, Colrain, Leyden and Heath) have worked to get a contract to share cost and capacity. He is hopeful that will be done by the end of February. As for the Design, the 5 towns rejected the first draft which did not meet their requirements. A meeting last week went better. It's looking like the end of summer or sometime in the fall before the Design is in place.

Police Chief John McDonough asked about the 6 hour outages planned for next week during the cut-over on Taylor Brook Road. Bill said that customers will not be out of service for the full 6 hours. Care will be taken to give customers advance notice so that needed plans can be made.

Sheila went over the Broadband Finance Summary Report which she had emailed to members of the Select Board. It shows that there is a projected surplus of \$113,725.06. She said that 2 costs have been added: \$13,378.33 for the hut security system, and about \$40,000 for the redundancy, resiliency, reliability project. The remaining TriWire cost is mainly the retainer which is about \$73K. We've been making ongoing Owner's Project Management (OPM) payments.

Art invited questions about the financial report.

Art asked David to speak about the starting of a Depreciation Reserve Fund. He said that this is a project we are working on having obtained the assessed values of the network components but still needing

their expected lifetimes. We expect to have finished by the end of the fiscal year. For the first year we may fund it from the reserve in the construction fund.

Art recalled a memo he had sent from the MLB to the Select Board about the need for centrally located office space in a building that is not privately owned. Each Select Board member said the need for an office was valid. Robyn said that the Select Board will be reassessing building use in the near future. Depending on what is determined the Assessors' Office might be available.

Sheila reported that the installation of a hut security system is due to begin on February 21. We think the following people will need access: Tim, John, the Fire Chief, MLP Manager, David, and Bill.

Brian asked what would happen if access to the hut were needed but none of those people was around? Bill said that we're looking into whether remote access will be possible.

The Select Board approved the SERV-10 invoice for \$23,350.20 and the CNST-19 invoice for \$14,730.25.

Bill made a motion to adjourn at 7:42. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf