

Minutes of the WG&E Construction Meeting with the Heath MLB and ITG  
January 18, 2022 at 2 pm  
virtual meeting

Present: WG&E: Joe Parda, Tom Kolek, and Dave Loiko

ITG: Dave Libbey, Dave Poplawski

MLB: Art Schwenger, Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, and Ned Wolf  
with Jan Carr visiting and Heath MLP Manager Sheila Litchfield

Joe said that he has sent out an email announcing a virtual meeting at 1 pm on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> to introduce Shawn of Northeast IT to a representative of Cebula Electronics Corp. to determine what interconnectivity has to take place in the hut.

Bill asked whether it will be Cebula or Shawn installing the equipment. Joe said that any equipment would go in by Cebula. Cebula would administer the card access system for cards issued to people in Heath, and WG&E would administer the card access system for cards issued to WG&E.

The discussion turned to preparations for the cut-over on Taylor Brook Road next week. Dave Poplawski said he wanted a splicer to work there Thursday and Friday but wondered what the conditions are following the snowstorm.

Dave Loiko said he has painted each pole near which the cut-over work needs to be done. The vault is covered with snow. Much snow has been piled up at the intersection of Taylor Brook Road and Flagg Hill Road. He will send photos of the work areas.

Sheila sent Dave contact information for the Heath Highway Superintendent and Police Chief.

Joe asked Dave Poplawski whether he can coordinate ITG's work with Chief McDonough. Dave said yes.

Dave Poplawski said that at each painted pole they need 40 to 45 feet cleared for a bucket truck hitched to a trailer. Dave Loiko doubted that straight segments 45 feet long exist on Taylor Brook Road.

Joe asked Dave Libbey whether he had met Mark Winnick and John Hogan this week from Comscope. Yes, Dave said, and he has provided them with all the testing data to prove MST deficiency for the 5 MSTs cited in FSA 4.

Tom Kolek said that the testing in FSA 4 looks good with the exception of the connector issue to the MSTs that Dave Libbey just called out.

Sheila asked whether the loose guy wire near the intersection of Molduc and Chickesaw had been fixed. Joe said that it had not been fixed by the end of last week. Joe said that spring will come, National Grid will get up there to fix it, and WG&E will release the hold in the CRM on nearby sites.

Joe asked whether Sertex has properly attached their fiber cable at the Colrain – Heath line. Dave Loiko said that when he last checked WG&E had not confirmed the attachment. He said that the cable is buried in snow. Joe asked Dave to get an answer as to whether WG&E or Sertex will do the attachment.

Joe said in response to Sheila's question about meeting Cebula at the Heath hut on February 21 that other towns have greeted them, provided access if needed, and then left them to do their work.

Sheila asked whether Joe has a completion date in mind for the broadband construction. Joe said that they are essentially finished except for the 5 MSTs which may be located on unplowed roads. Joe said that with our help they will determine whether the 5 locations are on plowed roads. He said that possibly the 5 MSTs could be fixed by mid-February.

ITG left the meeting at 2:40.

Joe explained that WG&E and Cebula arrived at a solution where a controller box for the card access system, the net box, sits inside the Cebula office in Chicopee. The cost of hosting this box is \$507 per year. There are 11 towns involved, and the cost per town for use of the box is \$46.09.

The price of an access card, which includes programming, is \$5.70. Future cards would cost \$20 each.

David asked whether Westfield people use the same cards. Joe said that the good news is Yes. He said that WG&E can independently program cards so that people have access to the box in the Cebula building.

Members thought Heath would want 6 cards for people such as Tim Lively, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Sheila, and 2 MLB members. We will ask the Select Board for comments at our meeting at 7 pm on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

David Dvore has asked whether people can be granted access remotely. Joe said he is looking into 'remote access'.

Bill asked whether a town is locked into using Cebula for its security. Joe said a town could leave Cebula and obtain security from another company.

Joe said that Cebula will be billing the town for a bunch of things including an S2 Headend cost of \$481.37 per town. David requested that a copy of the quote be sent to Jim Drawe as well. Joe said that would be done.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf