

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
February 8, 2022 at 11
virtual meeting

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, and Ned Wolf
with MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

Absent: Anne Emmet

Art called the meeting to order at 11:01.

Members read the minutes of the February 1st MLB meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. Members read the minutes of the February 1st WG&E Installs meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the February 1st WG&E Construction meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila reported that she has sent an invoice from Verizon for pole attachment fees to Wired West.

She said that Dave Loiko left off a list of places needing tree trimming along Taylor Brook Road in and around connections leading down to Colrain. In the interests of having as much tree trimming as possible done in one visit by Asplundh, Sheila asked that Jeff Johnston, Highway Superintendent, look out for other places needing tree trimming. She has also communicated to Jim Drawe the fact that trees in Heath threaten both MBI and Verizon lines in hopes that Jim may have advice on sharing the cost of tree trimming. She has yet to hear back from Jeff or Jim.

Sheila said that she knows from attending a Wired West Board meeting that towns want to see the Cebula matrix. When the matrix is filled in for a given Town, people can see quickly the name of the person or the company to be contacted for maintenance or for any of the possible alarms in the hut. It's unique to a town as to who is called. Sheila will check with Heath people as to who is called for maintenance on the HVAC. She will also check with Jim Drawe.

The generator test this past week was successful.

Bill Ennen canceled the conference call scheduled for February 8th. Art said he has an email from Bill saying that our next conference call with him will be on March 1st at 1.

Sheila said we are waiting for an email from Brian Sullivan with a revised FY23 subscription cost for Heath's Municipal Network.

Sheila reports that there are 5 broadband invoices that we have approved in 2022 which do not appear in Account #39 – 5 – 192 – 002 BB Borrowing Proceeds nor do they appear in any other account in the January 28th Expense Report.

David said in his redundancy report of February 7 (see Appendix) that the Heath MLB will need to consider various models of the Nokia switch 7250. There is a model with a second controller which would provide continuous service if the first controller fails. It costs an additional \$10K. The switch has a life expectancy of 10 years. The \$10K cost can be thought of as \$2.50 /customer/year for 10 years

Sheila said that the customers at 612 8A now have a long drop. They are satisfied with their connection. If a network extension is deemed necessary, an MST would need to be installed in the spring.

Bill said that a network extension would mean that it would be insured. David said that if the insurance deductible of \$25K is applied to each instance of network damage, it seems unlikely that we would ever meet the deductible. To benefit from the insurance the deductible would have to be applied to a collection of instances from one event impacting the Town.

Bill said a possible cause of damage would come from the home owner's digging the cable up. He wondered whether the drop wire was put in with a metal tracer.

There was a consensus that having had a drop put in and having made arrangements with the customer, who is now satisfied, we don't need to take any additional action.

Sheila said that on February 2 MIIA said that they're all set with the Select Board to send a second invoice. Paying that invoice will mean that in addition to the network the electronics in the hut are covered. She will follow up.

Sheila reported having received from Dave Poplawski of ITG the cost of the materials and labor for repairing the 6 MSTs in FSA 4 in the spring.

Sheila called members' attention to the Certificate of Substantial Completion sent to her February 3rd by Dave Poplawski and forwarded to us by her on February 8th. The effective date of Substantial Completion is given as February 4, 2022.

David said that he will be sure that Northeast IT (NEIT) gets the information they need from Cebula before February 21. He said that he will be at the hut to greet Cebula and NEIT on February 21st.

David has sent reports (See Appendix) of the Northern Tier towns receiving a new proposal from WG&E. The towns agree that this design is headed in the right direction. Open questions are the annual cost of equipment maintenance and the cost of one alternative model of the switch 7250.

David said that the estimated engineering cost may be too high or too low. The towns have requested a breakdown of that cost.

David spoke of the possibility that Heath can be aided by a Community Compact Cabinet Grant from the state because our 911 system depends on a reliable broadband network. Colrain and Leyden have volunteered to put the grant application together. When David gets more grant information, he'll gather it for us. Applications become available March 15th. The application is due April 15th.

The grant could defray the cost of interconnecting the towns and perhaps the cost of a redundant controller. Bill asked if a town had a redundant controller would the town know that it had been activated? David will ask.

David said that going with Crown Castle will reduce costs eventually. There was a consensus that a redundant controller is needed. Members expressed interest in the possibility of Heath's joining the other towns in applying for a Community Compact Cabinet Grant. David will bring this news to the other towns and report back later.

Ned suggested 3 versions of a letter to both the Select Board and the Finance Committee on the Statement of MLP Priorities approved at our meeting on February 1st. After some discussion the committee settled on simply informing the readers of the Statement of MLP Priorities approved by the MLB on February 1st. Ned will write the letter and send it to Art and Sheila.

We do not know for sure how much revenue we will receive from Wired West in July. As July approaches we will know the amount remaining in the construction account and will have a more exact estimate from Jim Drawe for income.

In our list of MLP Priorities, #1 critical needs, and #2 Depreciation Reserve Fund are our responsibilities. We need to think of them before taking care of anything else.

Bill made a motion to adjourn at 1:15. David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf