

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
February 22, 2022 at 11
virtual meeting

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger(Chair), Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, and Ned Wolf
with MLP Manager Sheila Litchfield

Absent: Anne Emmet

Art called the meeting to order at 11:08.

Members read the minutes of the February 15th MLB meeting. Bill moved to approve the minutes with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 ayes and one abstention. Members read the minutes of the February 15th WG&E Installs meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 ayes and one abstention. Members read the minutes of the February 15th WG&E Construction meeting. Bill moved to approve the minutes with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 ayes and one abstention.

Sheila reported the following DocuSign:

2/14/2022	HE-CNST-20	\$10,343.62	for passive hut components, materials, and overhead labor
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She said that the materials include some that were used in the 216 cut-over. She has sent Joe Parda and Chris LaVertu emails asking whether ITG's builders' risk insurance would cover the cost of those materials.

Action Taken *David moved that Sheila sign the DocuSign HE-CNST-20 above after she gets clarification about how builders' risk insurance applies. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Sheila said that the Broadband Finance Summary, which she sent by email on 2/21/2022, includes HE-CNST-20.

The second DocuSign is as follows:

2/14/2022	HE-SERV-11	\$45,139.84	labor for undergrounds, installations, rental fees, and credit for an earlier double billing involving SERV-6 and SERV-7
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Action Taken *David moved that we approve the DocuSign SERV-11. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.*

Sheila turned to an invoice she had sent the MLB before the meeting on February 22.

2/1/22 \$576. From MIIA for Policy No. HEA00024-21

Sheila noted that originally this invoice was expected to be around \$1,800.

Members read the letter and asked a number of questions including, "What does 100% Coinsurance mean?"

Action Taken *David moved that Sheila get additional information to answer the questions that she and MLB members have raised and that at her discretion she pays the above invoice.*

An Application for Broadband Assistance

Members discussed an attempt by customer #817557 to apply to the DTC for financial assistance for his broadband installation. Right now it's between WCF's customer service and customer #817557.

Action Taken *David moved that for customer #817557 the MLB rescinds our waiver of missing the deadline for the \$3000 drop subsidy until we get confirmation that person has been approved for the broadband financial assistance recently applied for. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Wired West Meeting

At the February 16th meeting of the Board it was understood that to change a bylaw requiring that a member town pay an annual assessment of \$1000 there must be 2 votes. One more vote will be needed.

Jim Drawe, who has been negotiating a new contract with WG&E, confirmed that we'll get a lower rate for our network operator, ISP charge. Instead of \$29.47 per month per customer it will be \$28. The change will be retroactive.

Jim is still negotiating with WG&E the terms of an agreement on rideouts for preventive maintenance. Most towns think that having one rideout per year is sufficient.

Bill Ennen and Heath's Contract Amendment

Bill has informed Sheila that his CFO has said that Heath's state contract can be amended so that Heath will receive \$214,682 as a subsidy for drop installations and so that we can reconcile this Spring. The draft amendment has yet to be signed by the CFO.

Depreciation Reserve Fund

Sheila and David with the help of data from Chris LaVertu have agreed that \$35,743 should be put each year into a Depreciation Reserve Fund. This appears in the notes of the Broadband Financial Summary sheet dated February 22. There will need to be an amount to jump start the fund.

Hut Monitoring and Security

Art and Sheila have signed a contract with Cebula for two services: hut monitoring and hut inspection/testing. The hut monitoring costs \$400. /yr. The inspection and testing costs \$200. /yr.

On February 21 at 7:30 am David met technicians from Cebula at the hut where they began installing Heath's security system. Although the firewall was not configured correctly, Shawn of Northeast IT was contacted and they were able to work around it. Bill made a patch cable from the Municipal Network's firewall to where Cebula is doing the installation. Cebula will finish the installation on February 22nd and will return in 3 to 4 weeks with key fobs and training.

Bill and David learned of an open wireless network in the hut that doesn't communicate with other electronics in the hut and appears to be there for WG&E technicians. We will ask at the 2 o'clock meeting whether it's password protected.

Sheila said that the generator run was successful.

Cannabis Farms

The farms plan to be operational May 1st. At that time they want to have trailers in place with broadband to each of the trailers. Sheila has sent an email to Whip City Fiber in which she says there are 5 separate companies each wanting broadband. One company corresponds to 11 Bellor Road where phone service is to be reactivated. Sheila has advised them that they need to talk with Whip City Fiber about levels of commercial service. She cautioned that there may be zoning bylaws that apply to their trailers.

Redundancy

David said that the representatives of the Northern Tier towns met of February 17th. They've been pushing for firmer numbers from Whip City Fiber so that they can apply for a Community Compact Cabinet Grant. There seems to be a consensus among the other towns leaning towards a nondual switch which would save \$17K for the switch and \$3K /yr for maintenance. David said that firmer information is needed on annual maintenance costs.

Bill asked whether the grant money could go towards the \$17K additional cost of a dual controller for redundancy. Members thought it should because the grants are intended to support redundancy. David said that the towns aim to apply together to cover the entire up front cost.

David said we should ask in the afternoon meetings about the risk of losing service and the time to recover if Heath were using a nondual controller.

Sheila said that we might need a service level agreement considering the new business. David has suggested in an email of February 21 that a field cabinet would be appropriate as part of the design to serve the new business.

Joint Meeting with the Select Board, February 22nd at 7 pm

There was a consensus to seek the Select Board's approval for the following:

1. Joining the other Northern Tier towns to hire and pay for KP Law to review the cost sharing agreement for redundancy, and
2. Collaborate with the same towns on a grant application for a Community Compact Cabinet Grant to help support the redundancy project.

The KP Law invoice would go to the Town. The MLP would pay.

At 1:07 Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

