

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
April 19, 2022 at 11
virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Members read the minutes of the April 12th MLB meeting. David moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 ayes and 1 abstention due to absence. Members read the minutes of the April 12th WG&E installs meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote with one abstention due to absence.

Anne suggested that we ask at the 1:30 meeting about the actual cost of installations and about funding the fixing of the tangled wires at Bellor Road.

Sheila added that we will also bring up at the 1:30 meeting the Bellor Road estimate, Heath's top 25 internet users, and the leftover fiber.

Sheila mentioned a factor that will slow down the closeout process. When Bill Ennen went to request for the Heath MLP the \$22,000 retainer and the \$2,000 for 4 additional drops, he forgot that the \$2,000 is not a budgeted item. More paperwork will be needed.

On April 17, 2022 Sheila sent MLB members the 'Last Mile Grant Summary for Heath' as well as Whip City Fiber's list of installs.

Sheila said that she has removed the second rideout from the most recent Broadband Finance Summary of April 12, 2022. We no longer need to follow it.

Sheila has talked with Arlene Paton, Manager of Customer Accounts at WG&E, and has a clearer picture of the Stripe account billing process. Since Heath is in Wired West, all customer bill payments go into the Stripe Account where Jessica Drawe sorts the revenue by town. Heath has asked WG&E to bill customers for their portion of their drop installation costs that exceed the drop subsidy the customer is eligible for; WiredWest will reimburse Heath for this revenue. Sheila has provided WG&E and WiredWest a list of the customers that this applies to and the amounts they will be billed. Sheila informed these customers by email and WG&E will also send

a reminder email to the customers just prior to their first invoice saying that it will be a big one and explaining why.

Sheila said that Robyn Provost Carlson has said she values the Broadband Finance Summary Report. Sheila plans to continue sending the Selectboard that report.

Sheila said that the Accountant's Expense Report does not yet show the \$214,682 received from the state for drop subsidies.

The customer at 19 Wigwam has requested a second drop for a trailer. The Assessors have the trailer identified as personal property and not real estate. It is necessary that it have electric power to receive a drop. There has been no answer to a question sent to the customer as to whether there is electric power at the trailer.

Sheila reported that Verizon has received the Heath MLP's payment for a pole licensing fee. They have said that the payment is sufficient for there to be a survey. Sheila has respectfully requested that the pole survey happen sooner so that the pole can be approved and a cabinet can be put on the pole.

Sheila said that she will attend the Wired West Board meeting on April 20.

Sheila said that the generator test run for the week of April 18 was successful.

David recalled that Chris said that by April 19th he would be sending the capacities of each of the FSA's to receive new customers. Bill said that it doesn't make sense that different FSA's have different limits for the number of new customers. He said that we can't have a single customer bearing the burden of \$16K for a new line card.

Redundancy Project:

David said that we have yet to receive a DocuSign for the redundancy project. On April 12 at 5 pm Chris sent the proposal. There was not enough time to review it before the 6 o'clock meeting with the Selectboard. The evening of April 19 the representatives of the Northern Tier towns will meet to go over the proposal. The proposal includes \$25,000 for equipment, 3 years of maintenance for \$7,700, and \$16,000 for labor. Heath's share of the cost would be \$48,600 which does not include \$2,800 for a spare router.

David's concern is that the proposal does not call out the requirements that the representatives of the Northern Tier put together. He would like there to be a revision. WG&E should enter into an agreement with Nokia, and there should be a separate agreement between WG&E and the towns of the Northern Tier.

David said that we will know in June whether the Northern Tier redundancy project is to receive the Community Compact Cabinet Grant. The grant could cover all of the cost of the redundancy project. Sheila said that she will tell Bill Ennen that we and the other Northern Tier towns have applied for the grant and would appreciate his support.

Art said that he and Anne have a plan to get together to discuss possible changes in the website.

Anne moved that the MLB meeting be adjourned at 12:06. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf