

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
May 31, 2022 at 11
virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11.

Members read the minutes of the May 24th MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Members read the minutes of the May 24th WG&E installs meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sheila reported that Hilma has been able to use the correct forwarding address in sending the National Grid invoice to Wired West.

Sheila said that a fiber hut emergency protocol is in progress.

Sheila reported that Wired West is still negotiating a contract renewal with Whip City Fiber.

Sheila said that she received an email from Brian Sullivan asking permission to cancel the 1:30 WG&E installs meeting on May 31st. Members thought about questions to be asked at that meeting. Anne asked about the status of the 6 MSTs in Mohawk Estates needing repair. Sheila asked whether the Sunday appointment for an underground survey at 2 Navajo took place? Bill suggested asking about the things other than MST repairs that were on the ITG punch list. Sheila said she would pass these questions on to Brian by email.

David recalled how the MLB had at its May 24th meeting recommended that the MLP Manager and the Select Board sign both the latest version of the Backhaul Service and Cost Sharing Agreement, which is a 20 year agreement, and the Backhaul Connection Appendix For a Crown Castle Fiber LLC Connection, which is for 5 years. He said that he had sent to Bob Handsaker the question about whether the Select Board could be expected to sign an agreement lasting more than 3 years. KP Law has replied that each of the agreements is an intergovernmental agreement, and there is no 3 year limit.

David said that the red-lined contract changes have been accepted by all 5 towns. The agreements could be sent to the Select Board for possible signings at the June 7th meeting. MLB members thanked David and his fellow committee members for their work.

David said that when the 5 towns met last week they got a final version of deliverables that they sent to WG&E May 27th. They included a question related to our choice of backhaul. Currently, our backhaul is MBI. There is a contract for this between WG&E and MBI with no risk to Heath. But suppose Heath were to enter another backhaul agreement. What says that WG&E has to use our choice of backhaul? David favored our getting a statement from WG&E that they would support our choice of backhaul. We now have 6 more months with WG&E contracted as our ISP provider. If WG&E is unable to give us the assurance that they will support our choice of backhaul, we might need to look for another ISP provider.

Sheila suggested 2 changes for David's Overview sheet to accompany the backhaul agreement with appendix. This sheet came as an attachment to David's email of May 28th which also has the agreements as attachments. First, she recommended beginning with a statement to the effect that "These agreements are to improve the reliability, resiliency, and redundancy of the network." The MLB also favored this change. Second, she and David replaced the third bullet under '1. Main Agreement' with "Each town will equally share the cost of maintaining the line and equipment to a backhaul provider associated with the agreement."

The MLB members were agreed that a copy of the agreement with appendix should be sent to each Select Board member. Anne recommended that a copy be sent to Hilma. Sheila and the MLB did not see a need to meet formally with the Select Board on June 7th. David said that he would attend the meeting.

MLB members expressed their delight with the news from Mike Slowinski communicated in David's email of May 24th that the 5 towns were awarded \$400,000, \$80,000 each, as part of the Community Compact Fiber Grant program. Bill said he was amazed that each town received a backup switch. David said he thinks the state was pleased with the cooperative effort of the 5 towns.

Bill said that he has yet to receive any response from Joe Ostachnowicz, the project manager of the cannabis growers on Bellor Road, as to whether he wants to proceed with installations. There are not yet any plants in the ground. It was agreed to try contacting Mike Freeman to learn more about the farmers' plans.

Art commented that there has been a lot of tree trimming around town. Sheila said that to our knowledge the tree work done so far has not been for us. The work has been done by Northern Tree for the Town with funding from a STRAP grant. Sheila has a 'Heath tree trimming list as of 2/28/22' that was created by Dave Loiko of WG&E and Jeff Johnston of the Heath Highway Department. She will send a copy to MLB members. After we learn from Jim Drawe that the work was done we can travel around town with the list and check the sites.

Bill moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:58. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf