

## Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting

July 5, 2022 at 11

Virtual meeting

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger (Chair), David Gordon, Bill Fontes, and Ned Wolf

MLP Manager Sheila Litchfield

Absent: Anne Emmet

Art called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Members read the minutes of the June 28<sup>th</sup> MLB meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and Bill's abstention due to absence. Members read the minutes of the June 28<sup>th</sup> WG&E installs meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and Bill's abstention due to absence.

Sheila said that the 'Heath Herald' article would be submitted July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sheila said that the letter to Colrain thanking them for their work on the Community Compact Cabinet Grant application was sent out by Hilma.

Sheila said that Brian Sullivan has confirmed that we are to ignore the invoice Heath received for backhaul because it will be rebilled to Colrain for payment from the Community Compact Cabinet grant.

Sheila said that neither the revenue from the state nor the funds transferred at the ATM to the MLP Manager's Salary Account has appeared on the Accountant's Expense Report. It seems best to wait until the Accountant has completed his report on the reconciling of accounts before scheduling a joint Select Board and MLB meeting. Possible dates are July 19, August 2, August 16, or August 30<sup>th</sup>. At this time August 30<sup>th</sup> seems most likely.

Sheila forwarded to members an RFP sent July 1<sup>st</sup> from Michael Baldino, Director and General Counsel of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. MBI is seeking an operator for the MBI network. The RFP is occasioned by the MassBroadband 123 Network's operating agreement expiring in August 2023.

Wired West Board Meeting June 29<sup>th</sup>

Sheila said that Wired West is starting to explore other ISPs. The Board voted to put out an RFP. They are still working on it. During this exploration they are letting Jim Drawe negotiate a new contract with WG&E provided that it is for less than 5 years.

MLB members favored Wired West's exploring other ISPs as proposed.

Sheila said there are apparently problems with the information coming from the stamper boxes that are installed in some houses (not in Heath) to verify broadband speed as a prerequisite to CAF II money being released. The MLB favored Sheila's suggestion that we see what Rich Carnall says about broadband speed.

Sheila said she learned on Friday afternoon July 1<sup>st</sup> that Chris LaVertu was seeking a Muni broadband outage for Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup>. Chris subsequently abandoned that plan in favor of an alternative method to make necessary connections. During the exchange of emails he asked questions about Heath's firewall. Bill recommended that in the future Northeast IT be brought in for such work. They would be better able to answer the technical questions.

Sheila noted that Bill Ennen in his July 5<sup>th</sup> email to her, with the MLB and Hilma Cc'd, said that we're officially done, and the grant contract with the state for Last Mile support is closed. Bill stated that the total support from the state has been \$2,739,820. We will want to see that the Accountant records all that revenue from the state in our accounts.

Sheila said that the generator was tested on July 5<sup>th</sup> and is back on standby.

Art spoke of the July 4<sup>th</sup> email from Jim Drawe with attached spreadsheet headed 'Excess Revenue Calculation FY22 year end. The amount anticipated for Heath is \$78,000. Art explained that 'anticipated' does not mean 'final'. Members were pleased with the increase over an earlier estimate of \$48,000.

Sheila said that in an email reply to her question as to why people in FSA 4 who want installations have been put 'on hold' Brian Sullivan said that all are on hold based on how connections were allotted after March 1.

David recommended we ask at the 1:30 meeting whether they've been taken off 'on hold'.

Sheila said that DigSafe charges went to Wired West. Whip City Fiber has been sending DigSafe invoices to Wired West.

David said that he received an email from Hilma saying that the Select Board has signed the documents for the redundancy, resiliency, reliability project. David will pick them up and get them to David Dvore in Rowe.

The Northern Cluster towns are interested in beginning to work on an agreement for a second backhaul.

David asked about emergency procedures, specifically whether we've worked out whom to go to for HVAC? Bill said that he has talked with Tim Lively who has been handling the air circulation system at 18 Jacobs Road. Tim said the Jamrog company has supported that system. Bill will ask Hilma for her blessing in contacting Jamrog to ask whether they would be interested in servicing the hut's air conditioning unit. David asked Sheila if she can contact other towns about how they handle HVAC matters. Sheila will look into that.

Bill moved that the meeting adjourn at 12. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf