

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting  
July 12, 2022 at 11  
Virtual meeting

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

Absent: Bill Fontes

Art called the meeting to order at 11:01.

Members read the minutes of the July 5<sup>th</sup> MLB meeting with Sheila's edits. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Members read the minutes of the July 5<sup>th</sup> WG&E 1:30 installs meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sheila reported that the Community Hall internet wasn't working. Hilma put in a trouble ticket with Northeast IT. Northeast IT visited the Community Hall on July 12th, reconfigured the WiFi router, and reported that WiFi is working.

Art said that he has reserved the upstairs of the Community Hall for our meetings July 19<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Anne said that she will be traveling in her car on July 19<sup>th</sup>. David suggested that for the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting we do in-person and have zoom and phone available. Art said that on his posting it will say "conditional on actions of the governor and state legislature."

Sheila has from the Town Clerk a copy of the FY23 MLP Budget. The items listed are the MLP Manager's salary, stipends, and 2 loan payments.

David has caught several edits in the Serv-13 DocuSign. Sheila recommended that we wait for it to be cleaned up before approving.

The generator was tested July 12<sup>th</sup> and is back on standby.

Sheila looked into what other towns might have by way of HVAC maintenance programs. John Leary has said it would be a good idea for each town to have a program in place just as Heath has a program with Kohler for its generator. David suggested we ask Jamrog for a maintenance plan for the hut's HVAC.

Sheila said there is a customer who signed up for a cold drop in January of 2021. She has informed him that he is eligible for a \$500. subsidy. Members agreed that since he did not switch to an active drop by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, he gets only \$500. They recalled the concerted effort last summer to inform customers that if you signed up for a cold drop, you have to switch to an active drop by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> to get the full subsidy. The projected cost of this customer's installation is \$900. With his \$500 subsidy he'll have to pay \$400 plus a \$99 installation fee.

Sheila said she will send Whip City Fiber's customer service a copy of David's 'Eligibility for Drop Subsidy Table'. Anne said the table will be a help on the web page. David suggested that at some future time we might want to subsidize someone who signed up for a longer contract, say 1 to 2 years, with a cancelation fee.

David said that the Northern Cluster will meet the evening of July 14 to discuss a 2<sup>nd</sup> backhaul.

#### Wired West

Art said Jim Drawe has sent Board members materials for a coming meeting. These include the budget for FY23. Sheila has forwarded the interactive spreadsheet 'Per Town Stand Alone v60' to the MLB.

Sheila said that New Salem, Rowe, and Heath have never been billed for pole licenses. Bill Ennen has emailed back to Sheila that he will check on the likelihood of Heath's receiving a big invoice.

Art suggested that we determine what it cost us in FY22 to be a member of Wired West. Other members suggested that we should also come up with the costs of administering things that Wired West does. David said that attaching a cost benefit to negotiating expertise could be difficult.

Sheila said that we need a full year of operating costs before determining whether an MLP Manager is needed.

David said that he thinks it's a decision of the MLB as to whether we're a member of Wired West. Sheila recalled that the Town voted to join Wired West about 3 years ago. The contract will run out in 2 years.

We may need to ask Town Counsel as to whose decision it is to join Wired West.

Art confirmed that the best date for a joint Select Board/ Finance Committee meeting is August 30th.

The list of items to bring up at 1:30 includes the following:

- \_ Turning over Jan Carr's faulty MST
- \_ Has 92 Sadoga been installed?
- \_ Does customer service know about David's table for drop subsidies"?
- \_ Who pays for DigSafe requests?.
- \_ Were additional tails freed up as part of Saturday's outage?
- \_ How is the scheduling of installs going?

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:16. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

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