

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
October 25, 2022 at 11
Virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11.

Members read the minutes of the October 18th MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 ayes and with Bill's abstention.

Sheila reported having sent us the revised SERV-14. David said he had reviewed it and approves the new version.

Action Taken *David moved that we authorize the payment of SERV-14 in the amount of \$21,618.27. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Sheila said she has received from Bill Ennen an email saying that plans are underway for a Last Mile celebration event. He asks us to list the names and addresses of those people from Heath we would like to be invited. There was a consensus that the list should include the Select Board, the MLB, Margo, Jan, and Bob Bourke. We will await word as to the place and time for this event.

Sheila said that Heath Broadband has this new email address: heathbroadband@gmail.com. She recommended our changing the email address on our website to this new one.

Sheila is in the process of moving Heath Broadband files to Google Drive.

Sheila would like letterhead. Jan Carr had a logo that could be part of the letterhead.

Members discussed Sheila's draft of a letter to residents who haven't yet gotten connected. David suggested adding "When you phone Whip City Fiber, you will be given an estimate of cost." Art suggested that 'the subsidy' be qualified with "which may cover all or a portion of your installation costs".

One of the questions to ask WCF at 1:30 is “Have they billed people at Bellor Road, and how much?” David will research SERV-13 before we ask.

RRR

David forwarded to members the following update from John Leary:

From: **Leary, John** <JLeary@wgeld.org>
Date: Fri, Oct 21, 2022 at 10:30 AM
Subject: RE: Northern Tier RRR Project Update Friday 10/21
To: Northern Towns <northerntowns@wgeld.org>
Cc: LaVertu, Chris <CLavertu@wgeld.org>, Sullivan, Brian P <Bsullivan@wgeld.org>, Carnall, Richard <RCarnall@wgeld.org>, Cloutier, Leanne C <Lcloutier@wgeld.org>

Good Morning,

This is the weekly update concerning your RRR project for the Northern Tier Community. For a more detailed update, please reference your Project Plan on Smartsheet's.

1. We received notice on Thursday 10/20 from Nokia requesting that the HLD meeting set for Friday 10/21 be pushed to 10/28. They have some concerns after reviewing the design that it had not met the exact criteria of the initial design phase. I have requested that they meet with us, not on Friday 10/28, but on either Monday 10/24 or Tuesday 10/25 for review so we can keep our meeting with you next week on track.
2. Today you'll be receiving a Teams invitation with an agenda from Leanne Cloutier for Wednesday 10/26 10:00-11:00 AM to review the High Level Design proposal in its present state. Since this meeting was part of the project plan all along, I think it makes perfect sense for WG&E along with Sean Brown from Nokia to collaborate with you on what the Nokia concerns may be and, if necessary, decide what steps will be needed to keep this project in track. The day/date is based on Sean Brown's availability.
3. I have asked Bryan Johnson from Local Linx to be part of a meeting with all stakeholders to explain the RFP process with the MBI123 network and what expectations there possibly would be should Local Linx be awarded the 10 year contract again. It may make sense for him to be part of the regular Municipal Partner's Call on Wednesday 10/26 at noon. More to come on that.
4. Backhaul Updates from Rich Carnall. Conducted a call with MLP Managers on 10/19 to review current status.
 - a. Considering a 3rd 10 Gig circuit for the cluster.
 - b. Likely Verizon and MBI to compliment Crown Castle maximizing diverse routes and endpoints.
 - c. Questions arose on the Verizon circuit from Access Plus, Doug Norton responded with this information.
 - i. 10 G Verizon circuit, 36-month term is \$1780, 60-month term is \$1680. One-time (NRC) costs will vary from \$5000 upward. From Charlemont to North Adams the NRC was \$12,000. Any Verizon Circuit terminated in North Adams, Pittsfield, or Great Barrington will require transport back to 1 Fed on a Access Plus Verizon High Bandwidth DWDM Circuit at an additional monthly cost of \$300.
 - ii. Requested an alternative Verizon quote to Leyden.

Thanks everyone and enjoy this beautiful weekend.

John

Wired West Board Meeting 10/19/22

Art said that Doug McNally of Windsor said it is his impression that Wired West towns are asking WCF more important questions than are people from towns that aren't in Wired West and that they are grateful for questions they wouldn't otherwise be getting.

Art said that Wired West is putting out an RFP seeking another proposal in case it is advantageous to change providers. David commented that WCF would not want routers sent back, a matter can be a point for negotiations. Bill said that given how fast the technology changes customers would be better off getting new routers.

Art said that Jim Drawe reported the net revenue so far for Wired West to be \$633K while the revenue after expenses is \$231K.

Heath Finance Committee Meeting

Ned reported that the Heath FinCom met on October 20th and looked over the 18 year broadband loan payment schedule with revised amounts of interest as sent by Brianne Susel of Unibank on September 19th. FinCom members expressed concern about the increase in the amount of interest. They asked questions such as "When CAF II funds arrive, who in the town receives them?", and "Who determines how the CAF II money is spent?"

Sheila said that the Treasurer receives the check which goes into a holding account at Unibank. The Treasurer and Sheila decide which of the MLB accounts that have been set up by the Accountant receives the money. Once it is in that account the MLB has full control of the money.

Ned said he reminded FinCom colleagues of the Statement of MLP Priorities that Sheila and the MLB sent to the Select Board and the Finance Committee in February of this year. The MLB can send money to the Town with a recommendation that the money be used in a particular way such as to replenish the stabilization fund. But it's the Select Board's decision. If the Select Board also recommends replenishing the stabilization fund, voters would have to approve that by a majority vote.

Scheduling November Meetings

There was a consensus that we should skip November 22nd, which is 2 days before Thanksgiving. We should ask Brian Sullivan to extend the 1:30 installs meetings through November except for November 22nd.

Anne moved that we adjourn at 12:08. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf