

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
January 24, 2023 at 11
Virtual meeting

Present: 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.

Members read the minutes of the January 17th MLB meeting with Sheila's edits. Anne moved to approve the minutes with edits. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Report of the MLP Manager

Sheila said that the Kinsley maintenance visit to the hut generator has been postponed to Monday, January 30th. The technician is scheduled to arrive 9 – 10. David will be there. Art will send us the questions to be asked.

Sheila called attention to the following invoice that she sent to the MLB attached to an email on January 20th.

1/18/2023 HE-SERV-10001-16 \$264.30 Service installation + project management

Action Taken *David moved to authorize the payment of \$264.30 for the invoice HE-SERV-10001-16. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

On Friday, January 20th Sheila met with Chris and Brian in Heath. They discussed the CAF II homes. It appears that the construction has brought fiber sufficiently close to all CAF II homes for Heath to get credit for them. Chris and Brian said that Rich Carnall is working on a list of CAF II homes in Heath that are un-installed.

They discussed the Free Cash process. Brian said that legislation was proposed to make CAF II funds exempt from the Free Cash process. Then the legislation was postponed; it is to be brought forward at some future time.

David said he recalled hearing that CAF II money has to be spent for broadband. The town can't use it for anything else.

Sheila reminded Chris that we need a cost estimate for an additional port in the hut for more customers. Bill said that we have very few remaining connections for new customers.

Tree Trimming

Sheila said that WCF will soon be proposing a tree trimming plan that will bring Asplundh to Heath. There will be an annual drive through in Heath to produce a tree trimming list that WCF will manage. Sheila has told Wired West that this is coming. Anne suggested we get Jeff's list before our drive through.

Sheila said that there is a draft proposal for trouble shooting technical support for the muni-network. She attached it to a January 24th email to the MLB. We will ask WCF to weigh in on it at the 1:30 meeting. We will bring the draft proposal to the Select Board meeting on February 21st and encourage them to reach out to Northeast IT about it.

Brian Sullivan will continue to be our WCF contact person.

The invoice for the second \$3K surety bond has come from Hanover. Sheila has sent it to Wired West.

There are 3 requests for installations in the CRM that have not yet been scheduled.

Sheila has 3 outstanding requests of the Accountant /Treasurer.

-When will we see the more than \$4K recently received in drop fees in revenue?

-What is the status of transferring to the town the \$100K? Should go into the account 'To be Transferred to the Town'?

-What is the status of taking the \$35,743 for the Depreciation Reserve out of the Broadband Borrowing Account and putting it into an interest bearing account?

Sheila asked MLB members whether they've been receiving WCF's broadband newsletter. They said no. She will ask that Heath customers begin to receive the newsletter and if possible that the Heath MLP be sent back issues.

Sheila said she will look for the Kinsley maintenance report for the visit in July 2022 and will send it to the MLB.

RRR Project

David recalled that MBI's RFP for the Middle Mile had a date of notification of award as November 30, 2022. The RFP stated that the effective date was January 1, 2023. As of January 24, 2023 the contract has not been awarded. David reported that there is concern among the 5 Northern Tier towns about the holdup. The towns have a hard time accepting the current pricing because MBI says it cannot provide an updated firm quote until it awards a contract for the Middle Mile. David has sent a note to John Leary expressing the towns' concern. John has left messages with both MBI and Local Linx. If the towns haven't heard soon, they will reach out through the FRCoG to an MBI Board member.

David said that Rowe has started getting billed for the Crown Castle connection. The 5 towns have agreed that this is part of the testing phase of construction. Mike Slowinski expects it can be covered by the state grant.

WiredWest Board Meeting

Sheila said that not all WiredWest towns have received pole licensing fees. Heath did receive one from Verizon but not from National Grid. David said that Bill Ennen said we should not receive one retroactively from National Grid. We will have to pay an annual fee. David said he will look back at Bill Ennen emails.

Ned said that he has responded to Pat Mcgahan's guide for town website users by using the recommended file naming protocol when posting MLB minutes.

Anne requested that David send a copy of the Drop Policy. He said it has been available on Google Drive. He will send it to members independent of Google Drive.

Sheila will send the following list of questions to WCF for the 1:30 meeting:

1. Do they have any comments about the draft of a muni-network protocol?
2. What do they think of Bill's suggested use of jumpers to make the work in the hut easier?
3. Do they have a list of Heath homes in the CAF II area not yet installed?
4. Does WCF have access to legal opinions as to whether M.G.L. CH 44 Section 53A would apply to CAF II money which would then be exempt from having to go through free cash certification?
5. Do they have a written estimate on installing an additional port in the hub allowing service to more customers?
6. When is Asplundh coming to Heath?

7. Will Heath be informed ahead of time of any Asplundh visit? Does Heath have a recourse if Asplundh is a no show?
8. Might we be able to get a preview of WCF's plans to offer an annual drive through for tree trimming planning?
9. Can we start having the WCF newsletters sent to Heath customers, and is it possible to send the MLP back issues?

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:25. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf