

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
February 21, 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 11:01.

Members read the minutes of the February 14th MLB meeting with Sheila's suggested edits. Anne moved that the minutes with edits be approved. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Sheila said that on February 17th there was a 30 second electrical outage. The generator came on briefly.

She said that although Brian Sullivan said that Asplundh would return to Heath for more tree trimming, they have not yet come. Asplundh does not think that they need a police detail. Brian is the person who knows when they are coming. Sheila has asked to be kept informed.

Sheila said that she has received Fund 50 (or Broadband revenue accounts) reports from the Town Accountant, and they match her books.

She said she will reach out to WCF about our being credited for items in the POD.

Sheila relayed what Chris stated in his email of February 21st about the billing process. As of the next billing cycle, they are migrating away from sending DocuSigns to Robyn. They will no longer be using AIA. Invoices would then be sent to Jim Drawe at Wired West.

Sheila said she has gone through the Wired West warrant. The total projected WiredWest expenses for 2023 is \$271,452.64, the gross income during that year is \$390,983.76.

Sheila said there are now 344 active customers including people who have disconnected for the winter months. There are about 34 still to be installed. We've reached out to all 34.

David reminded us of the email from WCF announcing a scheduled outage Wednesday, February 22nd, 12 am to 6 am because Local Linx will be performing maintenance.

RRR Project

Sheila and the MLB expressed appreciation for David's email of February 18th with the attachment 'Northern Tier Backhaul Cost Scenarios for Heath 01-18-2023'. It considers 8 scenarios.

David recommended our signing the cost sharing appendix for Verizon backhaul. He said that the worst case scenario would be that only Heath, Rowe, and Charlemont share Verizon. He said he thinks that would be reasonable for Heath. The agreement would guarantee 2 shared circuits in neighboring towns. If MBI comes through with an offer, we can consider it, and possibly choose to have 3 backhauls at an additional cost.

Rowe and Charlemont are starting to use Verizon immediately. We're obligated to pay MBI up through February of 2024. We'll be paying for Crown Castle and 1 gps from MBI through February of 2024 at which point we can drop MBI and start with Verizon.

Members asked Art whether he had talked with Linda Dunlavy at the FRCoG. Art said that he has tried to reach her by both phone call and email but has yet to receive a response.

Action Taken *David moved that the MLB recommends that the MLP Manager and the Select Board sign the cost sharing appendix for Verizon backhaul. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

David said that on February 28th the representatives from the 5 Northern Tier towns will meet. WCF will present the Low Level Design.

Digital Equity

David received an email February 18th from Heath Broadband which mentions Municipal Equity Planning activities and provides a link for more information. Hilma has found a contact person at the FRCoG. Sheila and the MLB see benefits for Heath residents in digital equity programs but agreed that it's not in the MLB's purview to organize or apply for such programs.

Bill moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:31. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf

