

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting

June 13, 2023 at 11

Virtual meeting

Present: MLB: David Gordon (Chair pro tem), Bill Fontes, Ned Wolf, and
MLP Manager Sheila Litchfield

Absent: Art Schwenger, Anne Emmet

David called the meeting to order at 11.

Bill said that the MLP will have a phone number in the new phone system at 18 Jacobs Road. It will have built-in voicemail.

Members read the minutes of the May 30th MLB meeting. Ned made the following corrections: Add "Sheila approved payment of bill 2023-04 in paragraph 5 on page 1.", and replace the second paragraph from the bottom of p. 2, with "Sheila reported that the preliminary information from Verizon about a 2023 pole attachment fee of \$2077.53 has been sent to Wired West." In addition, Ned eliminated the second sentence of paragraph 3 under 'MLP Manager's Report'. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Members read the minutes of the May 30th WG&E installs meeting. Ned replaced the second paragraph with the following: *David inquired about a list of static IP addresses in Heath. Christina identified one customer with a static IP address.* Bill moved that the minutes be approved with the correction. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

MLP Manager's Report

Sheila said that she has uploaded the following 2 documents to Google Docs:

- The letter of May 30th sent to the Select Board and Finance Committee expressing the MLB's intent to transfer an additional \$60K to the Town.
- The Statement of Priorities revised by the MLB on May 2, 2023 sent with the above letter.

Sheila has replied to questions from Art and David about her June 1st report on meeting with Robyn, Hilma, Dave Fierro, and Alice to discuss the process to transfer MLP money to the Town.

David asked whether having transferred money appear as 'anticipated revenue' on the FY24 recap sheet requires that the transfer occur by June 30th? Sheila said that prior to October 1st based on when the Assessors compile the recap sheet.

Sheila emailed our questions following the May 30th meeting to Brian whose return email said he would be in Ireland June 7th and expects to be back for the 1:30 installs meeting on June 27th.

Our request for a map of fiber lines in Heath has not been answered. The map is among the WCF documents related to the broadband build in Heath. David said he will check the details of the contract which says that we have access to those documents.

Another question Sheila has sent to WCF is "How did they become aware of the May 23rd outage?"

Sheila said that she has talked with people in Westfield's government and has learned more about how revenue from broadband is transferred to the city of Westfield.

David suggested we ask Alina Ashlaban, WCF's lead consumer relations representative, "Who is responsible for responding to our questions?"

Sheila followed-up on the alert we received for a Verizon invoice for 2023 pole license fees. She found that Verizon had an outdated address. Now that the change in address has been made the invoice comes to P.O. Box 60. The Heath MLP receives an email. The invoice is paid by Wired West.

Sheila reported that of the 9 possible terminations indicated in Betsy's email of June 6th there were just 4 actual terminations as the other customers paid their invoices.

Sheila said that Alina asked whether the customer at 56 Papoose is eligible for a subsidy. The answer is yes, the customer is eligible for up to \$3K.

MLB members recommended adding to the list of questions for WCF a question asking for the status of all remaining applications.

Sheila has kept track of the amount remaining in the MLP Manager Salary Account. She said that there will be sufficient funds for her work in FY23 even with her extra time spent on contract negotiations.

Sheila said that Kinsley preventive maintenance is scheduled for Friday June 16th. The technician is scheduled to arrive between 9 and 10 and will be installing a new generator battery. David said he can be there.

Art and David have agreed to attend the Wired West Board meeting on June 21st.

Sheila said that the customer at 186 Sumner Stetson Road is building a new house. The original estimate for a broadband installation was \$800. The most recent estimate is \$2800. Jamie Cincotta has said that an MST is required. Sheila has asked for more explanation because the house is close to the road and although it was not part of the original plan, a lot was there. MLB members expressed concern that the customer not have to bear the burden of future installs for nearby houses.

We will ask WCF for an itemized bill explaining the \$2800 estimate for 186 Sumner Stetson Road.

RRR Project

David forwarded to us the June 9th project update from John Leary. He has contributed edits for the IGA for the MBI circuit to be served. He expects they'll begin using the network even though the IGA will not yet have been signed by the appropriate representatives in the Northern Ring Towns.

David thanked Sheila for sending out the red line version of the revised Drop Policy.

Bill made a motion to adjourn at 12:13. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf