

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
December 19, 2023 at 11
Virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11:05.

Members read the minutes of the November 14th MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Sheila said that on December 15th she, Bill, and Ned met with Brian Sullivan and Jaime Cincotta in the MLP Office at 18 Jacobs Road. Brian gave Sheila a printout of broadband data. We have 358 customers. There have been 12 installs in 2023. The data included charts of monthly income passed through to WiredWest.

Brian and Jaime said that Whip City Fiber (WCF) will take back our spools of unused fiber having more than 500'. They are working with WiredWest to do this and estimate we may be left with only 3 spools. They will reimburse us by an amount yet to be determined. They suggest that we cover the fiber we keep with a tarp.

Customers who have missed payments have asked for a payback plan. A payback plan is being discussed at WiredWest. The plan would happen through WCF.

Sheila said a customer on Shawnee paid \$2100. for an installation. The CRM indicated a much higher amount was owed. That cost included underground work which the customer did himself bringing the cost down to \$2100. We've received a check for \$2100. from WiredWest. Sheila has approved the payment of \$2100.

Tree Trimming

Sheila, Highway Superintendent Jeff Johnston, and Tree Warden Steve Thane, and Bill Fontes have had a tree trimming meeting. National Grid has begun a program of removing trees that threaten the electric lines. Many of the trees that have been marked with red tape are susceptible to the Emerald Ash Borer. The cutting will help protect the broadband fiber that shares poles with electric lines and should save us money.

National Grid has been sending letters to people on whose property they have marked trees for removal. It is not the MLB's responsibility to inform the public.

The MLB is still interested in having WCF do a rideout in the spring. We can't ride in the truck but can follow in our own vehicle. They will give us a quote for the rideout.

WCF advises Asplundh if trees needing trimming are found. Bill recalled that Brian said that Asplundh would be willing to do a free rideout.

Drop Policy

Members made several edits in the Drop Policy.

Action Taken *David moved that the MLB approves the Drop Policy as amended. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Members agreed to put off discussion of the new contract until WiredWest has voted in early January. Art will post MLB meetings for January 9 and January 23.

There is a WiredWest board meeting Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30.

Members discussed the outside lighting for the hut. Possibly, a lightbulb with a built-in motion detector can be purchased and used at the hut. Bill said he would check with the electrician Clint Dodge about such lightbulbs.

Tracking MLB Funds

Sheila reported in her email of December 15th that the Accountant has completed the transfer of the balance of all broadband construction related funds to the operating fund 50 accounts. She attached a draft of the Accountant's MLP funds tracking spreadsheet. A spreadsheet that is kept up to date could reduce the hours of work for the MLP Manager. David noted that some accounts are missing from the draft spreadsheet.

The Accountant has backed off from 15% to 10% as the percent of warrants that is the fee for his accounting services. Sheila will contact David Dvore to discuss fees for accounting services.

Anne asked about putting the phone number for technical support on the website beside the phone number for signing up. Members favored doing that.

Anne made a motion to adjourn at 12:25. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf