

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting

January 9, 2024 at 11

Virtual meeting

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger (Chair), Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Bill Fontes, Ned Wolf, Jim Drawe (visiting as Executive Director of Wired West), and MLP Manager Sheila Litchfield

Art called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Review of the minutes of the December 19th meeting will be delayed until our meeting on January 23rd.

Members welcomed Jim Drawe who went over his responses to a list of questions that David Gordon had sent to him about the Wired West Network Operations and Service Agreement.

David spoke of how a major benefit of belonging to Wired West is that the cooperative has the capability of covering other expenses. Jim said that Wired West currently has \$280K in cash reserves with a plan to keep reserves from dropping below \$500K. Part of the new contract with Whip City Fiber(WCF) will allow Wired West members in a disaster to draw on a line of credit.

David noted that if we do have to spend money, we can look to our Statement of Priorities.

Jim said that Wired West will send Heath a Profit & Loss statement to the member towns each year and upon request can get one to Heath individually.

If we initiate a subsidy, Wired West will take it out of our revenue.

The Wired West Network Operations and Service Agreement renews on July 1st. Jim has notified us 6 months before it expires. There is an opportunity to revise the existing agreement and by July 1st have clean copies available for signing.

MLP Manager's Report

Sheila said Kinsley has corrected the invoices for Heath.

Jim suggested that we have the propane company send the invoice for our tank to Wired West. Anne cautioned that we not forego the 'good deal' the town has enjoyed by having the propane company service all the town's tanks together.

Sheila said that the estimate of the CAF II funds to come to Heath sometime in the first quarter is \$168,800.96. The Massachusetts legislature has yet to resolve whether or not these funds must be certified as free cash before they can be used by the town.

Sheila reported that with input from Jim there is a signed contract with WCF. She will tell us at our January 23rd meeting more details of the contract negotiation.

She has talked with the Accountant who says that we need to transfer an amount for the MLP Manager's salary. She will find for the January 23rd MLB meeting the exact amount spent for the MLP Manager's salary.

Sheila said that the Hanover insurance invoices have been paid through Wired West.

There is a request from Alarm Works for fire alarm testing. The MLB agreed that it should be done by a professional. Is there a halon suppression system? Sheila will investigate.

There is a new FCC requirement that a customer gets a label saying what he or she receives as a subscriber.

Sheila reported that on December 18 and 19 there were speed problems. Replacing electronic components at Stanley Park fixed the problems.

At 12:35 Art left the meeting for an appointment. At his request David became chair pro tem. There was a consensus to discuss that the MLB did not need to respond to an email that Bill received from Alice Wozniak regarding Heath's membership in the Wired West cooperative. There was a consensus to wait until next meeting for more discussion on renewing the WiredWest contract.

David said that we can circulate the new contract between Wired West and WCF among ourselves. At our January 23rd meeting Sheila can give us an overview of the new contract as well as details of the process that produced it.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

