

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
October 1, 2024 at 11
Virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11:03.

The first agenda item was a review of David's email of September 24 with a goal of deciding on the amount of money to transfer to the Town. The total of unreserved funds is \$177,125.98. The projected expenses for the remainder of FY25 are the sum of \$35,743, the amount for the depreciation reserve, and \$11,848, the amount of the MLP Manager's salary still to be paid. That sum of \$47,591 when subtracted from \$177,125.98 leaves \$129,534.98.

Members discussed how much, if any, of the \$129,534.98 should be held back. Some concern was expressed about the increase in the cost of insurance and the cost of transferring broadband cable to new poles. Those costs will be shared by Wired West. At the end of the fiscal year there will be a reduction in the amount of Heath's distribution from Wired West.

Action Taken *Bill moved that the MLB transfer \$100,000 to the Town. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Bill left the meeting at 11:30.

Action Taken *David moved that the MLB recommends to the Selectboard that the \$100,000 be used to help pay off the principal of broadband debt. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.*

Sheila will send letters to both the Select Board and the FinCom reporting these votes. She will also inform the Accountant by including Ned's minutes of the October 1st MLB meeting.

Updates from the MLP Manager

There is a November 15th deadline for Whip City Fiber (WCF) to discontinue underground installations. After November 15th a customer who has no underground conduit in place will have a temporary overhead line.

The committee agreed there should be a notice with this information on the Town's website.

The Wired West Board has been deliberating on a proposed service protection plan (SPP) from Whip City Fiber. One proposal is that every customer would be charged a \$2 to \$3 monthly fee. WCF says that a town can't opt out. However, the SPP is not in the contract between WW and WCF.

The MLP Manager's Letter of Resignation

The MLB members received Sheila's letter of resignation on September 28th. Her resignation becomes effective on February 1, 2025. This gives us 3 months to find a replacement and the month of January for orientation. There were thanks to Sheila for giving us time. Art will put her resignation on the agenda for our November 12th meeting.

Minutes

Members read the minutes of the September 24th MLB meeting. David moved that the minutes be approved with edits. Anne seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12 at 11 am

David moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:55. Anne seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf