

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
December 4, 2025 at 10 am
Virtual meeting

Present: Art Schwenger (Chair), Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Dave Peterson, Ned Wolf, and MLP Manager Bailey Cole

Art called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Members read the minutes of the November 6 Heath MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. David Gordon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Bailey said that the Hackworth security system has the needed monitoring as part of the new panel they would install. Our key card access would become part of their system.

Bailey said the Hackworth system has more flexibility than our current system. The Hackworth cameras will operate more efficiently. He has talked with support staff. The Hackworth system would be user friendly. He recommends switching to the Hackworth system.

Bailey restated the quote that he sent to the MLB in an email of October 16. The total for installing the monitoring system is \$1,350. In addition the cost of interactive monitoring is \$50. per month.

The quote for upgrading the cameras is \$2,355. The total for installing monitoring and upgrading cameras is \$1,350 + \$2,355 = \$3,705 plus \$50. per month for interactive monitoring.

Bailey will ask Hackworth for a list of those things that are monitored.

Action Taken *David Gordon moved that we approve the quote from Hackworth Systems, LLC for a new monitoring system with upgraded cameras. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Bailey reported that Whip City Fiber (WCF) phoned to notify him that there was a Dig Safe violation, and it looks as though there will have to be maintenance on the fiber line. He thinks that the contractor will be billed.

David Gordon said the maintenance cost should not appear on the warrant for Heath. He asked Bailey to check that it doesn't show up as something that WiredWest has to pay.

Bailey said that there are presently 350 Heath Broadband customers.

Bailey said that the battery needed in the hut has not yet been replaced. WCF has said they'll get out to check the alarm system. Bailey will send David Gordon photos.

WiredWest Meeting

Anne asked whether Charlemont and Rowe will let National Grid transfer their fiber lines. Those towns have been told that they will get a one time exception from National Grid for paying the cost of transferring their fiber lines.

MLP Finances

Bailey said that the \$88,967.19 that Heath received last summer as its 2025 distribution from WiredWest does in fact appear on the Town of Heath's most recent Latest & Greatest Financial Report.

Anne, who is one of the assessors who signed the fiscal year 2026 tax recap sheet, said that the 2026 tax rate for Heath has been certified at a higher number than the 2025 tax rate. Last year in filling out the tax recap sheet the \$100,000, which the MLP sent to the town, was included in 'estimated receipts' and appeared on the recap sheet under fiscal year 2025 estimated receipts as 'miscellaneous non-recurring.' The \$100,000 was used in calculating the fiscal year 2025 tax rate.

This year the entry on the tax recap sheet for 'miscellaneous non-recurring' under fiscal year 2026 estimated receipts was \$0. Anne said that for the amount that the MLP sends the town to be included in calculating the tax rate it has to be sent to the town by a certain date.

MLB members expressed concern that the MLB had not met that date. Members could not verify balances in the town financial reports.

There was a consensus to ask in 2026 those who fill out the tax recap sheet for the date by which the MLP must send money to the town for that money to be included in calculating the fiscal year 2027 tax rate.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, January 15 at 10 am

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:30. David Gordon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

