

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting  
April 9, 2026 at 10 am  
Virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 10.

Members read the minutes of the March 12 MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. Dave Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Bailey said that the hut battery for the Town's municipal network is to be replaced by NEIT.

He has yet to laminate a set of directions to be put in the hut.

He got from Bob Gross, Becket's MLP Manager, a list of key card holders and PIN numbers.

For the April 18 Heath Resource Fair Bailey will bring to the Municipal Building refrigerator magnets and a banner. He will bring his Asus laptop computer with a link to the Cost – Benefit analysis. He will also bring flyers regarding broadband.

There have been no complaints from customers.

The data from Solar Winds is average.

There has not yet been a response from Kris confirming receipt of the town's 2026 CAF II Distribution. Bailey will follow up.

Wired West has concluded that there are no opportunities for better insurance rates through Wired West. Each MLP should continue to purchase insurance individually.

We did sign up for a spring rideout but have not yet been scheduled.

Cost of Transfer of Lines in Phase III Electric Project

Robyn, Mia, Art, and Bailey attended a meeting at 18 Jacobs Rd. with National Grid. Art reported that National Grid is working on a document that they will bring to us. National Grid stated that if their offer goes public, they will enforce the terms of the existing contract, which would require the MLP to pay costs of pole transfers.

To avoid further discussion in a public meeting, David Gordon asked that during our next regular meeting we go into an Executive Session on 'Contract negotiations with National Grid regarding pole transfers.'

Bailey said that National Grid estimated mid April as the time when they would be able to evaluate costs and complete the document. The MLP recommended Bailey wait another week or so and follow up with Robyn to see if a document has arrived from National Grid.

Dave Peterson said that in Wired West meetings there have been discussions of nondiscretionary fiber transfers to new poles, meaning that the transfer is driven by pole replacement. In those cases, the cost goes to Wired West.

If transfers are discretionary on the part of the MLP, the cost falls to the MLP.

**Dates of Next Meetings: Thursday, May 7 at 10 am**  
**Thursday, June 4 at 10 am**

Is an Increase in Fees Needed?

Expenses for customer services are locked in for 10 years.

David Gordon added that our Cash Flow spreadsheet shows we have enough funds to cover operating costs for the next 6 years.

Art said that things might change due to pole transfers.

David estimates that the maximum number of drops needed for Avery and Taylor Brook roads are 10 and 6 respectively. If the MLP has to cover drop costs, it would not significantly affect the 6 year cash flow projection.

When Whip City Fiber has to extend a drop, it is like a storm cost. It gets shared by Wired West.

**Action Taken** *David Gordon moved that based upon the Cash Flow projection, which shows for the next 6 years sufficient funds to cover operating expenses, that we keep our fees the same at this time. Dave Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Transfer of the Depreciation Reserve Fund

Dave Peterson said that our Depreciation Reserve Fund will approach \$200K at the end of this year. In its present bank account it earns interest at the rate of 0.5%. Dave has

reached out to the Town Treasurer to discuss options for moving Depreciation Reserve Funds to a higher yielding investment option, as required by M.G.L.

Bailey got us on the agenda of the Wired West Board meeting. He learned that other towns are getting interest at 3% or more.

The Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT) is considered a safe harbor for funds such as stabilization funds. The MMDT would be appropriate for Depreciation Reserve funds and is currently paying over 3.5% interest.

The MLB thinks it is in the MLP's best interest to look into a possible transfer of our Depreciation Reserve Fund.

#### Changes to the Town's Website

Anne continues to work with Pat on corrections, updates, and any needed changes to the town's website. We have one more meeting to talk about these changes.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:52 am. Dave Peterson seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf