

Town of Heath

Meeting minutes

Heath Municipal Light Plant Advisory Committee

Date/time: 5/21/19 at 9:30 am

Location: Sawyer Hall

Called to order at 9:07 AM with Art, Ned, Sheila and Bob present

Approved minutes of 4/9/19; 4/23/19; 5/15/19

Heath M-R estimate has increased to \$2.1 million; is one of the heaviest towns relative to M-R cost overruns. By time of this meeting did not received revised anticipated estimate and information from Bill Ennen regarding adjusted advance from LMCF.

Construction est. of \$645,300 is expected to be adequate because with taller poles construction should be easier; Town is responsible for any construction overage.

Reason Heath M-R is so high is that we have 236 poles many of which are too short and need to be replaced to provide adequate space for fiberoptic line (need 40" for proper separation of power lines); and because the Cartesian model used a lower estimate for pole replacement cost when actual cost is closer to \$6,500/pole.

Ned calculated that based upon what we know so far, borrowing for Heath's share, \$890,000, plus the 25% balance on the advance that Heath will be reimbursed for at "true-up", will likely be less than 1.45 million. The Advisory Committee agreed to recommend borrowing only to the amount determined to be actually necessary, rather than proceeding with borrowing the full amount authorized.

10:00 AM conference call with WG&E's Joe Parda:

Design is finalized and ready for bid; all residences desiring service will have access available without wireless. Advisory Committee will recommend to the MLP Board tonight to "go ahead" with construction procurement. Joe indicated that bid will be advertised for about 2 weeks; a pre-bid construction meeting will be held 30 days prior to bid award; WG&E proceeds with pole licensing; bid holds for 1 yr.

Bob asked about actual construction costs vs. estimated cost for towns who are further along in project; Joe indicated costs have been "status quo" so far.

N. Grid is reported to have increased staffing to keep up with workload; Vz cannot do their work until N. Grid replaces poles.

Bob asked about number of network essential poles vs. service poles; Joe will find out.

Joe indicated that Chris (WG&E) will send Heath a questionnaire for construction preparation that will address things like material laydown area needs, Police detail, etc.

Sheila inquired about cost est. for 10x20 hut in event Heath determined it would like the additional space for record storage, given there would be inadequate space in the 9x16 hut. Joe brought Patty Norton, PM with United Concrete into the call; sketch had been provided but not the cost increase. Patty concurred there would not be space in regular size hut. Cost info will be sent. Advisory Committee plans to provide the info to MLP Board for their determination to proceed or not with the larger hut.

Bob inquired about specs needed for trenching, etc. that he will need to send to contractors. Reviewed hut drawings received in recent email.

Bob asked which towns had selected WG&E as PM: Rowe, New Ashford, Plainfield so far.

MLP Advisory Committee agreed that a rough schedule/timeline will be helpful to ensure timely decisions are made where the Town must make them. Sheila agreed to draft.

MLP Advisory Committee plans to brief the ML Board tonight at the BS meeting on the following:

- Obtain “green light” on construction procurement
- Confirm plan to pay Vz. Invoices ASAP with amount in account plus loan when it becomes available 5/22/19 and pay NGrid invoices when possible upon Bill Ennen’s encouragement to do so, and with the assistance or reimbursement from LMCF advance as needed. Additional loan amount needed after 7/1/19 TBD.
- Ascertain availability and extent Town Highway Dept can assist with hut site prep work.
- Ascertain decision regarding hut use for record storage
- Obtain possible sites for pole laydown area
- Ascertain BOS methods to ensure legislators are aware of Heath’s needs for Gov. validation of the debt exclusion vote.

Next meetings: 6/4/19 at 9:00 AM at Sawyer Hall. 10:00 AM 6/11/19 w/ Bob Bourke and WGE; 6/11/19 at 1:00 PM w/Bill Ennen.

Adjourned at 11:27 AM