

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLP Advisory Committee

February 4, 2020

Sawyer Hall

Present: Sheila Litchfield, Art Schwenger, Margo Newton, and Ned Wolf

Absent: Jan Carr

Art called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. Members reviewed the minutes of the January 28th meeting. Art made a motion seconded by Margo to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Members looked at a spreadsheet made by Jim Drawe, Executive Director of WiredWest. The spreadsheet adjusts to changes in the input data. If Heath is assumed to have 402 residences, 206 takes, and rates of \$59 for 25 mbs and \$75 for 1 gbs, then the Heath MLP's share of the profit as a member of WiredWest is projected to be \$6,000. It was noted that all the western MA MLP's are operating "in the black". We plan to invite Jim to come again to Heath to clarify such questions as, "Does Heath's payment for depreciation come out of the \$6,000?"

In the mail there was a request from Hilma for our committee to review the invoice for Bob Bourke's pay. Sheila has told Hilma that the committee has never done that, it's the BOS that supervises the position and approves those invoices. Hilma will go to the BOS and ask them to make a decision as to who decides on invoices for Bob Bourke's pay.

Bob has been functioning as "Clerk of the Works" for Heath's fiber build and has been present for the inspection of some of Verizon's work. Any make-ready work must pass inspection during 'rideout' before construction can begin. Bob will also be coordinating the hut and generator startup and walk-through.

Art reported that Jan has completed FSA 3 & 4 in a review of PDU's. On February 11 Jan and Art will meet at WG&E in Westfield at 9 am to review all of Heath's PDU's. Also on February 11, Sheila, Margo, and Ned will meet in Sawyer Hall at 9:30 am to consider matching PDU's with the town's priorities. They will also review use of DocuSign and other computer resources used by the committee.

In reviewing invoices Sheila has found 2 identical payments for an amount close to \$2,800 and has contacted WG&E for clarification. Tom Danek's invoice was OK'd at our January 28th meeting, but it does not appear on the BOS Warrant yet. The town has received 2 reimbursement checks from Verizon totaling \$41,236.25. the checks are reimbursement for the difference in estimated versus actual costs for 3 specific Verizon pole applications. Receipt of these checks will be reported to Bill Ennen.

At 1:05 pm our telephone conference call with Bill Ennen, Last Mile Implementation Liaison, began. Bill said that when we do True-Up, it will consider the 2 checks from Verizon Heath has received. The True-Up will be done when construction is complete and final licensing is done. Heath is waiting

on 5 pole licenses. Bill indicates the Heath project is moving along well. For work on the connection to MBI "middle mile" we will be billed directly by MBI's contractor, Phoenix.

Sheila told Bill that we are waiting to hear from Charlemont having talked with Bob Handsaker about ways in which Charlemont homes on Bassett Road and on Warner Hill could receive broadband. She told Bill that we have told Bob that we are willing to work things out.

Sheila asked Bill what the limit is for state money to fund our broadband liaison person. Bill said that the limit is 5% of the professional services portion of the grant from the state. She said that our broadband liaison person Bob Bourke has been very helpful.

Following the conference call, members discussed the possible benefits to a new broadband stabilization fund to assist residents with drops. Sheila said she would draft a letter to the BOS and FinCom on this matter.

Art said that he has schedule with Hilma February 25 as the next meeting with the MLP Board to sign the Edge Case agreement between Heath and Charlemont and to discuss other broadband business.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf