

Minutes of the Heath MLP Advisory Committee Conference Call

May 5, 2020

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

Art opened the meeting at 9:36 am. After a discussion of compensation for the MLP Manager there was agreement to recommend a place holder of \$10,000 on Article 3 for Compensation to the MLP Manager. There was also agreement that the MLP Manager gets paid an hourly rate, a record is kept of hours worked, and the person is paid only for hours worked.

Members considered possible drops at town buildings. They asked whether Sawyer Hall and the Community Hall should each have a drop. Presently, the Community Hall shares Sawyer Hall's connection through Crocker to the internet. Jan and Margo agreed that the Community Hall's internet access is weak. The committee recommended one drop for each building which would cost $2 \times \$657.91 = \1315.82 . At the town garages the committee recommended for Highway/Fire 1 or 2 drops. A drop at 18 Jacobs Road would be nonstandard and would cost \$3,933.18. Art will talk with Jim Drawe as to whether there are any broadband costs that we've missed that should be on the ATM Warrant.

The committee looked at the 4 FSA's in the construction project. There was agreement that the construction order FSA2, FSA1, FSA3, FSA4 would be better than FSA1, FSA2, FSA3, FSA4 because the estimated construction time for FSA2 is 22 weeks while that of FSA1 is 32 weeks. Having FSA2 come first would result in revenue coming into the town sooner. Sheila made a motion seconded by Margo to recommend the order of construction be FSA2, FSA1, FSA3, FSA4. The motion passed unanimously. Art expressed interest in having more clarity as to what decisions the MLPAC can make independent of the MLB. There will be at least 2 MLB meetings before the ATM.

Jan said that we need a name for Heath's broadband network to refer to in the coming mailing. Members agreed on 'Heath Broadband.' People will know where to send back information.

There was a discussion of whether Heath's hot spot should be at Sawyer Hall or at 18 Jacobs Road where Robyn says it makes more sense because of the better parking lot and reduced congestion. Members spoke in favor of having the hot spot at Sawyer Hall where the current speed is only 5 mbs and the wider bandwidth would result in 250 mbs. The signal will be broadcast farther and can reach more people. Those who sit outside using computers are often sitting in their cars. The parking lot at 18 Jacobs Road has been reduced to the front row by a sink hole in the back row. Since remote learning has become more important, DESE has put more emphasis on access to high speed internet. The computer users in Heath with the slowest internet service tend to be in the southeast part of town. Channel 22 announced the program as creating hot spots at town offices. Heath's Emergency Operations Center would be activated at the Fire Station or at Sawyer Hall or Community Hall because of generator power.

In answer to Robyn's question as to how the decision got made, Sheila said that the MLPAC was asked by Rich Carnall in an April 6 email where in Heath we would like to have the bandwidth expanded. Jan listened in to an April 15 WG&E conference call during which WG&E's involvement in the governor's hot spot program was discussed and reported this to the Select Board.

Members divided up the work to be done. Sheila and Ned will work on the budget. Sheila volunteered to seek information for the True-up worksheet, and ask Hilma for existing invoices. There will need to be interaction with the Accountant as well. Jan, Art, and Margo volunteered to work on communication to the town. Art will work on the website where people can send their contact information. Margo, Art and Jan will work on the drop policy communication to the town. Sheila will communicate with Bill Ennen about the worksheet.

Jan made a motion seconded by Ned to adjourn at 11:48 am. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf