

## Minutes of the Heath MLPAC Conference Call with WG&E

May 8, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm

Present: Art Schwenger, Jan Carr, Ned Wolf, and from WG&E Joe Parda, Tom Kolek, Rich Carnall, and Chris LaVertu

Art asked about the cost of hooking up to Heath's network later if someone were to not get a drop this year when there is the first opportunity. He asked that WG&E imagine a situation where extra fiber is available near this person's home. Rich said that the Triwire prices listed on the most recent PDU list will stay the same for the duration of Triwire's contract. The contract will likely expire within 2 years. The \$500 drop subsidy may not be available from the state for a cold drop such as someone unemployed might request. Heath committee members said that Bill Ennen has consistently said that the \$500 subsidy does apply to cold drops. The WG&E team will check with Bill on that.

Jan mentioned two sites in Heath where land is being cleared for a house, one on Hosmer Road, and one in Mohawk Estates. Rich encouraged her to send him the new addresses. Joe might be able to incorporate them into the design.

Heath folks asked for more details about the plan of construction. To what extent is the work concentrated in a single FSA until its completion and then shifted to the next FSA on the schedule? Joe said that first time when a person within an FSA can talk over the internet is at the completion of OPM certification. He said that when 5 homes are ready to come on, they'll be scheduled, and in the first week people from WG&E will walk them through aspects and kick the tires. In the second week they'll have a chance to see the friendly face of the Whip City technician who would be coming if needed.

The work will occur in multiple FSA's, and stick to the sequence 'strand-cable-splice' where strand refers to the stretching and mounting of a steel cable from pole to pole followed by the stretching of the fiber optic cable, followed by the splicing of that cable. The work crews can usually stretch and mount a mile of cable per day. The splicing involves raw cable and requires a different skill set from stretching and mounting. Splicing is more time consuming. The testing is done by still another crew.

Art told WG&E of the MLPAC's wanting FSA2, FSA1, FSA3, and FSA4 as the order for the construction schedule. Joe Parda said we'll reshuffle so as to include the interchange of FSA1 and FSA2.

Art asked with whom would he work at WG&E about marketing 60 days before construction. Rich said that he is the contact persons and Lisa Stowe is marketing person will be involved with a 10 am meeting that marks the beginning of receiving applications. Rich said that collaboration with the ML Board may be useful to discuss best means to connect with customers across the Town and drive them to the Heath Broadband website to put in their address and start filling in information.

Jan spoke of the letter we plan to send out with questions at the bottom to get contact information. Rich said to send them the letter when it's finished and they will review it and possibly make suggestions based on their experience in other towns. Rich said that the application site should be up 60 days before the first person gets hooked up, or 60 days before November 21 which would be September 21.

Joe spoke of National Grid and MBI being done. There is a pole on Burrington Road near Ingraham Drive that is holding up the completion of licensing in application 12. WG&E has a plan to work around it. Joe said there's a question as to whether Verizon will release the pole knowing that WG&E are ready to go around it.

The WG&E team spoke of Bill Ennen's formula at True-up for dealing with private poles that is quite favorable to the towns. For every 100 poles 80 are counted as private, not all 100. The poles at Mohawk Estates are treated as a standard utility pass and not a take away.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf