

Minutes of the Heath MLPAC Conference Call

June 9, 2020

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

Art called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. Members read the minutes of 6/2. Ned made a motion seconded by Jan that the minutes be accepted with emendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan will send an email to Rich about the number of drops.

Sheila gave details of an invoice related to work near the hut.

6/6	\$4.97	for cement used by the Highway Department to patch a hole in the ground
		near the hut

Jan made a motion seconded by Ned to approve the invoice. The motion passed unanimously.

The MLPAC learned at the 6/5/20 call with WG&E that National Grid Dig Safe charges are not included in the PDU cost list. Those broadband customers whose drop requires an underground conduit will be informed of the additional cost due to Dig Safe.

Art mentioned Bob's broadband update sent to the Select Board. He said he has asked United Concrete Products for digital copies of manuals that go with equipment associated with the hut. Art also recommended that decisions be made regarding access and security to the hut.

The Committee discussed Heath Broadband organizational structure during operations. Members noted that the MLP Manager job cannot begin before the job description is approved and compensation approved at ATM. State legislation says that the Annual Town Meeting must occur by August 1. The MLP Manager does the day-to-day work and reports to the elected MLB which should be separate from the Select Board and does not function as a department of the Town because of its responsibility to subscribers. The MLPAC would no longer be needed once MLB members were elected.

Sheila reported that the State doesn't consider any work associated with the hut to be Make-Ready work. She is working with Bill Ennen and Laura Blascak and has scoured Bob's invoices for non-hut work which Bob has said is about 50%. Sheila will request reimbursement for the non-hut work in the narrative. The goal is to submit the application for additional Make-Ready reimbursement so that a decision can be made by June 30th. Art will recommend tonight at the MLB meeting, that as part of the application process the MLB sign the letter from Bill Ennen.

Art will also have a Fiber to Home construction schedule for the MLB. It includes the list that Jan has put together of the roads in each FSA. He will inform the MLB that someone needs to oversee the process to switch over the Town's Sawyer Hall phone system to the Heath network.

It was mentioned that our construction budget estimate does not include any money for police detail. If money is used for that, it will reduce the amount available for drops.

The committee reviewed its recommendation to the MLB that there be an ATM Warrant Article to fund the drops to Town buildings and that each Town building have a line in Article 3 with the FY21 cost of Internet. Ned made a motion seconded by Margo to approve the recommendation to the MLB about what goes on the ATM Warrant. The motion passed unanimously.

In discussing a possible drop policy a flat \$1000 was suggested as a way of avoiding what could be viewed as a long driveway bias. But covering a certain percent of the drop cost was viewed as being more fair.

Art will ask permission from the MLB to use the Town emailing list for Heath Broadband marketing

Jan made a motion seconded by Margo to adjourn at 12:22 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf