

## Minutes of the Heath MLPAC Conference Call

July 7, 2020

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

Members read the minutes for June 30. Sheila made a motion seconded by Margo to approve the minutes with emendations.

Sheila said that the town has received a \$2,175.05 reimbursement check from Verizon for pole attachment fees, and it has been deposited into the state grant account from which it was paid.

She said that she is sending to the MLB the finalized MLP Manager job description. 'Attending MLB meetings' has been included.

The committee reviewed the Docusign IGA contract with Triwire for the drops. Rich has replied that having 'Select Board Chair' in place of 'MLP Manager' will suffice. Art's name will be removed as a signatory and replaced by Select Board Chair. If another signatory is needed, a second Select Board member can provide it. Rich says that 'contractor' refers to either WG&E/ Triwire or their subcontractors who do underground drops. National Grid will have Dig Safe assessment done only within 15 feet of the pole. An underground consultation is needed for most UG locations at a cost. Sheila made a motion seconded by Jan to recommend the Docusign agreement with revisions. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila explained the Broadband Finances Tracking spreadsheet which she sent to members on July 6. Using the 'Revenue' tab one sees listed 7 reimbursement checks from Verizon. Four of the checks have been deposited in the borrowing account. The remaining 3 have been deposited in the state grant account. These 7 checks total \$145,825.33. The cash flow spreadsheet begins with a balance of \$709,548.13 available.

Jan has been projecting the costs of various drop subsidies. Recommending a drop policy in a timely way depends on knowing that we don't have to wait for the passage of an article on the August 1<sup>st</sup> ATM Warrant to borrow more than the \$1.45 million that has already been authorized. Art reported that Brian has said that he and the Select Board voted to remove the article creating an MLB from the Warrant. Brian said they were uncomfortable taking the authority away from the Select Board and giving it to an elected MLB. The MLPAC favors an independent, elected MLB because situations can arise where the interests of the MLB do not coincide with those of the Select Board.

Members read and discussed Sheila's draft handout for the STM on why approval of transferring \$200,000 from General Stabilization to a Construction Broadband Drop Subsidy Account is needed.

The MLPAC will request at this evening's MLB meeting that a meeting in Executive Session be scheduled to discuss projections for drop policies and cash flow.

The committee expressed appreciation to Jan for her helpful broadband July update that lists the streets/roads in each FSA with beginning and ending construction dates. The update will be sent to the 'Heath Herald' and to David Dvornik for Heath's Wired West webpage. Perhaps it can be put on the Broadband page of the Town website.

Jan made a motion seconded by Sheila to adjourn at 12:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf