

Minutes of the Conference Call of the Heath MLPAC with Bill Ennen

July 14, 2020 at 1 pm

Present: Bill Ennen, Art Schwenger, Jan Carr, Ned Wolf, and Margo Newton

Art told Bill of our having received and approved the Verizon invoice for \$3,057.22. He asked Bill whether this is in fact the final invoice. Bill took as an action item his getting Laura to confirm that it is the last Verizon invoice. Bill said that we're at the point where he can work with Sheila on the final application.

Jan spoke of our finding it challenging to come up with a drop policy when 41% of subscribers are seasonal. Bill said that the \$500 drop subsidy is available for however many subscribers and cold drops there are up to 70% of the total number of drops. Once we reach 70% of subscribers and cold drops we can apply for the \$500. subsidy. He said that in order to garner federal money our stretching of cable has to pass by CAFII addresses so that we can say that broadband is available to them.

Depending on the percent of customers whose drops are fully funded by our drop policy, Bill advises that we look closely at those drops which would not be fully funded. He does not advise a lot of cold drops unless there is a written commitment from the homeowner to subscribe at a later date. From anyone who has to pay Bill advises a written commitment.

Jan asked about Berkshire Bank's offer to a customer wanting assistance in funding a drop. Bill couldn't give the specifics but has heard that their offer is reasonable.

Dates of next conference calls with Bill:

August 4 at 1 pm

September 1 at 1 pm

Bill said that Joe Parada has been monitoring National Grid work and that he thinks that any undone or improperly done work in Make-Ready will be minor.

Bill reminded us that the quarterly report will be due in October.

Bill said that the letter from the Select Board is the only item outstanding in our application for more state aid. He said that our application is not too complex.

As for the status of state funds for broadband, Bill sounded confident that state money for broadband is secure. The state has bond funds that are not attached to an operating budget.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf