

## Minutes of the Heath MLB and the Heath MLPAC Meeting

July 20, 2020

Present: Robyn Provost –Carlson, Brian DeVriese, and Gloria Cronin Fisher of the MLB; and Art Schwenger, Sheila Litchfield, Jan Carr, Margo Newton, and Ned Wolf of the MLPAC; others present: Hilma Sumner, Bob and Susan Gruen, Bill and Jean Gran, Dave Petersen, Bob Viarengo.

Robyn asked Sheila to speak on the cash flow of the broadband project as detailed in her July 18 email 'Heath Broadband Network Cash Flow Projections'. Sheila first reviewed the top half of the table which shows the cash flow impact of not having the \$200,000. It shows that the final borrowing of the money authorized by the voters would have to occur in FY21 which would impact the FY22 tax rate. It also shows that the project balance could go into negative numbers for a length of time until we received the state drop subsidy and possibly even the CAFII monies.

The bottom half of the table is a cash flow projection showing the impact of having the \$200,000 from Stabilization which allows us to adopt a Drop Policy that commits to subscribers a drop credit and shows that the remaining borrowing can be delayed until FY22 so that the impact on the tax rate is delayed until FY23, as well as showing that the project stays in the black through construction and beyond.

Robyn said that the MLB will report to the Select Board on 7/21/20 about receiving updated numbers as of this weekend and seeing a cash flow projection which depends on the \$200,000 for the project to stay in the black.

Gloria asked how the MLPAC came up with \$3000 as the amount of the drop credit. Art spoke of the lengthy process of beginning with a PDU list with 836 entries and slowly with much good committee work winnowing the list to 516. This significantly lowered the cost of construction and with state aid, federal aid, and \$200,000 from Stabilization made it appear for a while that we could pay the total cost of the drops. Concerns about paying fully for the most costly drops led to striking a compromise of up to a \$3000 drop credit.

Gloria made a motion seconded by Brian that the Heath MLB accept the Heath Drop Service Installation Policy as presented by the Heath MLPAC. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian said that he had reviewed the grading of the MLP Job Manager position and thought it should be at grade 13 not grade 11. This will be discussed at the July 21 Select Board meeting. Sheila expressed the MLPAC's hope that eventually the revenues will cover the MLP Manager's salary.

Sheila urged that in the event that voters approve the August 1 ATM Warrant article for an elected, independent MLB thought be given to an election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> or some election day before next May.

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

