

Minutes of the Heath MLPAC, WG&E, and TriWire Meeting  
October 6, 2020

The meeting scheduled for 2 pm got underway at 2:17 pm due to technical difficulties.

Present: From the MLPAC: Art Schwenger, Sheila Litchfield, Jan Carr, Margo Newton, and Ned Wolf; From WG&E: Joe Parda, Rich Carnall, Laura Dorman, and Dave Loiko; From Triwire: Jordan Hawes, and Justin Chapin

Sheila asked what happens when a potential customer using the WhipCity Fiber page of the Wired West website can't find an address. Rich said that they go through a vetting process; that WG&E sees all the comments that are entered and they follow-up all of them. Sheila reported that we've received an updated list of 911 addresses. Rich expressed appreciation for having received that in an earlier email. Sheila said that a trench to Ken Rocke's house is dug and ready for a conduit for his fiber optic cable. Jordan said that TriWire could accommodate that in their schedule.

Jordan said that they are working on stretching strand for Judd Road. That will complete the installation of strand in FSA 02. Next week they'll start stringing fiber in FSA 02. They are a bit ahead of schedule in FSA 02. Art asked how many crews could be in town for stringing fiber at any one time. Jordan said three or four.

Joe said that they've found that National Grid has done a clean job in make-ready. He asked Jordan whether splicing might begin in FSA 02 sooner than December 14<sup>th</sup>. Jordan said maybe. He said he might call MBI to alert them that they're a bit ahead of schedule.

In a discussion of possible police details Jordan said that on the more traveled roads such as 8A, safety is needed. Sheila asked whether TriWire staff could replace police details. Jordan said they couldn't do that but asked whether Heath has flaggers. In another town TriWire has used flaggers instead of police. Joe said that any flaggers used would have to be certified. Justin said that usually the Chief of Police lets the contractor know what's needed. That information combined with TriWire's input is the basis for decisions about police details. Jordan asked Joe to put on the screen a road map of Heath with all of 8A, Branch Hill Road, and Dell Road colored pink indicating a need for police detail. Jordan said, however, that they have not been using a police detail on all sections of Branch Hill Road. Sheila said that we'll work with the Chief.

Joe said that once they get to splicing, the cable the trucks are pulled off to the side of the road, and there is less need for police detail. Jordan said that it would be helpful if the town can send out a phone message to the community that moving construction is taking place. He said he would be at 18 Jacobs Road around 10:30 on Thursday. He would welcome meeting members of the MLPAC as well as Dave Loiko. Jordan said that he can be reached at 508 525-5670.

Joe said that he is cancelling the 2 pm meeting that was scheduled for next Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The next 2 pm meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Jordan and Justin left the meeting at 2:55 pm.

Sheila asked about the prospects of Zoom community meetings to inform people about three aspects of broadband: the internet, Ooma, and streaming. Rich said that due to bandwidth limitations they focus on each of the 4 areas when it is ready to light up rather than having one big session. They invite questions and offer videos. Before sending out their informative emails they try to get a critical mass of subscribers. Jan requested that the committee be sent the emails ahead. Rich said they will do that.

Art asked about using a cell phone over broadband. Rich asked whether the cell phone has a WiFi setting feature. If so, it can be used over the fiber optic cable. Joe said that most cell phones made in the last 5 years have that feature. Jan asked whether people choose to use their Iphone or choose Ooma. Rich said that 30 – 60 percent of broadband customers take Ooma. Sheila asked whether there is a tracker for the number of subscriptions. Laura said that there is the Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) on the website. It indicates 80 subscriptions so far.

Jan asked about the needed diameter of conduit for underground installations. Joe said that the fiber optic cable can usually be co-located with the Verizon phone line in a conduit of diameter 1" to 1.5". He advised when going to Home Depot to get 1.5" conduit. Joe said that new construction often goes with microduct no less than 1.5". There is microduct meant for air-jetting fiber. The maximum length through which they will air-jet the fiber is about 500'. Air-jetting cannot be done if there is another cable already in the conduit.

Jan asked about the cost estimates for drops in the original PPR list. For drops that are partially or entirely underground is the cost estimate based on new conduit or does it take into consideration existing conduit? Joe said the estimates are based on new conduit; if existing conduit is used the final cost is adjusted.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf