

DRAFT

Minutes of the Heath MLPAC Meeting

January 26, 2021 at 11 am

Present: MLPAC: Art Schwenger, Jan Carr, Margo Newton, and Ned Wolf;  
MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

Art called the meeting to order at 11:01 am. Members read the minutes of the 11 am MLPAC meeting on January 19. Jan made a motion to accept the minutes with emendations. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the 2 pm MLPAC meeting on January 19. Jan made a motion to accept the minutes with emendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Art reported that MST's are being installed on Burrington Rd. near his house today.

Jan has found an address that is not yet in the CRM.

Sheila reported that Caitrin Ferriter will be our new contact person with WG&E. Rich Carnall will continue to attend meetings in the near future. Teah Dempsey will be an assistant to Caitrin.

Sheila attended the January 20<sup>th</sup> WiredWest Board meeting and reported that WiredWest has not yet received a proposal for hut monitoring. Kent Lew of Washington said that we need to watch drop invoices for possible errors. The Heath MLPAC will seek an answer to the question "Who will reimburse the Town if the drop costs more than \$3000.?"

Sheila cited the excess revenues given at the WiredWest Board meeting for the towns of Rowe, New Salem, Washington, and Windsor. Members discussed how to make effective use of Jim Drawe's latest financial projection spreadsheet which Sheila has emailed to us. We may need to determine the data we need to gather and send to Jim for his entry into the spreadsheet. Art said he would call Jim and ask.

MLP Manager Update: Sheila has asked the Select Board to initiate borrowing at tonight's meeting. She said that Town Accountant David Fierro is OK with deficit spending so long as we know that money is coming in that will cover the amount. MLPAC members expressed hesitancy to into the red.

Sheila said that January 5<sup>th</sup> police detail invoices from the FCSO written to TriWire need to be rewritten 'payable to the Town of Heath.' She is working on that with Hilma who caught the

mistakes. Next week we will take up a TriWire invoice for \$86,975.54 and a Franklin County Sheriff's Office invoice for \$1200.

Sheila is working on a narrative for the FY22 budget. The following FY21 town accounts will still be needed for FY22: the State Grant Account, the Borrowing Account, the Stabilization for Drops Account, and the accounts used by the Town Accountant for the Interest and the management of Broadband Loans. There was some discussion of the MLP Manager's salary line. Jan made a motion that the MLPAC recommends that the above FY21 town accounts be kept as town accounts for FY22 and that the MLP Manager's salary line be kept in the FY22 budget. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila is also working on a narrative for 8 or 9 MLP accounts which will be separate from the town accounts. A question to consider in future meetings will be "Should the MLP contribute to the salaries of the Town Coordinator and the Treasurer for Broadband work that they do?" Another question is "Do we want to have an MLP fee?" After some discussion there was a consensus not to recommend a fee until we have a clearer picture of revenues.

The list of schoolchildren's homes where consent has been given for remote instruction is growing.

Sheila suggested there be a large thermometer displayed in town for the level of Broadband subscriptions. She will bring it up at the MLB Meeting on February 4.

Sign-Up Process: There is no available space at Sawyer Hall for a kiosk. Jan said that we need to get an updated drop count. Sign-ups in FSA 2 have been going well with just 20 people remaining. Townwide there are 279 unique locations among the sign-ups. Jan has sheets of people in each FSA who have yet to sign up. We need to identify people to be phoned and divide them up. Sheila will work with Art on the bullet points of a crib sheet that can be handed together with a list of names to the MLB on February 4. We will ask WG&E this afternoon about the launching of the sign-up process for FSA 4.

Ned said that he will be getting a Zoom Pro subscription and will become a co-host for MLPAC meetings. Art will do the Agenda for February 2.

Sheila reminded the committee that we are still gathering questions to ask David Dvore about the help that people need in signing up.

Jan made a motion to adjourn at 1:04 pm. Margo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf