

Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:30 pm

Minutes

Present: ML Board - Robert Heller, Laurie DiDonato, Lou Leelyn ; MLP Manager - Ray DiDonato.
Meeting called to order 6:31 pm

Minutes - Approval of Feb 15th minutes. Robert made a motion to approve. Lou seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

MLP Manager Report

- Budget- Ray told Andrew Short that we are planning to cover ACP discounts if it is discontinued by the Feds. Due to this ACP coverage we will not do any rate decrease this year. If there is a question about rate decreases we can explain that we are coming off a rate decrease last year, doing the ACP bridge, and being cautious due to weather.
- We got a bill for damage to fiber that Asplundh caused, a little over \$5K- Carolyn created an invoice to send to Asplundh.
- Ray signed an agreement for moving fiber to new poles.
- Ray has checked for mice in the hut- none caught yet. He will keep checking.
- There is a call scheduled for Friday to discuss progress on IRU. There is also a hilltown meeting tomorrow at noon. Ray can attend.

Customer with tech issues: 48 Wendell Depot Road is having a lot of calls drop- asking town to give a refund. Whip City replaced the ONT and phone and hardware. Ray asked for them to check the MST. Will Whip city offer a refund in these situations? If they had not checked MST and that is at fault then we might be able to ask them for some refund. Lou is going to check the timeline and see what has been done. This seems similar to the situation with the Fitzgeralds - we gave them a partial refund from the town not Whip City. We will likely approve some refund as a courtesy, once we figure out the cause.

Meetinghouse - wants to get connected. Ray got information for an aerial install. Splicing will be required as well as adding property to the map. This will be Town responsibility. \$260 is added to the minimum of \$1100 for splicing. They wanted cost relief, but this was in response to a much higher estimate for an underground connection so it is unlikely this is still needed. There was a suggestion to waive activation fee, but that would make little difference and would require we make an official policy around that for non-profits so no action taken.

STM in the works maybe in a month and a half where we can create a stabilization fund.

Digital Equity - This is an initiative several towns are working on with FRCOG, Ray is involved. MLB member can probably sit in on meetings. Lou is looking at the percentage of people not served to better understand where there may be need.

MLP Manager Gap- Laurie and Ray will get job description written up. The board needs to come up with a plan on how to move forward.

Operations- Lou monitors the CRM and all is going smoothly. There are no patterns in the tech calls. Apps have been processed quickly, no underground work waiting.

Next meeting time - March 26th, 6:30pm on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm