

## Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 6:30 pm

### Minutes

**Present:** ML Board - Robert Heller, Laurie DiDonato, Lou Leelyn ; MLP Manager - Ray DiDonato.

Meeting called to order 6:32 pm

**Minutes** - Approval of March 26th minutes. Robert made a motion to approve. Laurie seconds. Motion passed. Robert Abstained.

### MLP Manager Report

- Should get review of cost sharing agreement with NS this week
- Friday RRR meeting - Robert attended and reported we will get soft dates on when the switch will happen by the end of the week. The equipment is in and a Nokia tech will help get it configured and working. The switch will happen during the day and the internet will be down - there will be advance warning.
- ACP -
  - A discharge petition has been filed in congress so it will go to floor for vote if it gets the right number of signatures.
  - In response to the whip city poll, we only got one reply and it was an opt-in.
  - Should we put something out about calling the legislators? We got a toolkit that we can make use of. Lou will draft something to put on the list and send to all customers and the board can review.
  - Board agrees to give the credit to all eligible customers. We need to find out the deadline for telling Whip City that we are doing this. The next bill will go out on May 15th. We will wait until the first week of May to see if it is funded otherwise. Lou will reach out to Whip City to see if this timing works.
  - If it gets re-authorized in congress everyone will need to reapply, so it is unlikely there will be any retroactive payments.
  - We ever heard back from the lawyer on the ACP question.
- Cebula is doing fire alarm testing - Alistair agreed to let them in and sign off on the certificate.
- Annual Report - will finish by tomorrow night.

**Operations-** 362 bills went out for April.

There were some tech support calls for Town offices- Library - Entre has set up a firewall, so Entre needs to be called for help.

**Last Hilltown call-** All should watch last hilltown call to learn more about the service plan and Cafll.

**Migration to an elected board.** Robert is concerned about conflict of interest with Selectboard. Robert will resign if it doesn't change to an elected board. There are other concerns that people who are inexperienced or with bad intentions could win an election. Also, the extra effort of getting signatures and campaigning may be a factor discouraging people who otherwise would participate. Filling the seats is a bigger problem than a conflict of interest. Because of staggered seats, a new person won't have an immediately disastrous effect. SB can still appoint any unfilled seats.

The process would be as follows: At the annual meeting a vote can create an elected board which would start in the following May election. There will also be a second article to dissolve the appointed board on election day. All 3 board members will be elected next year. Should we consider a stipend? We could check if other boards are stipended. Can we expand the board to 5 people- if so we would need to make sure the quorum would depend on actual members and not the full board. Lou is open to an elected board. The deadline for submitting articles will likely be in early to mid May so further discussion can happen at the next meeting.

Aim for May 14th as final for article submission. Robert will provide language for the elected board.

**Next meeting time** - April 30th, 6:30pm on Zoom. Next one after that will be 14th

Laurie will double check on when the article submission deadline is.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm