

## Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 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 April 16th minutes. Robert made a motion to approve. Lou seconds. Motion passed.

### MLP Manager Report-

- Changes to RRR cost-sharing agreement with New Salem were accepted - both Selectboards need to sign
- Wendell Mtghouse still wants an underground drop because they are putting in electric underground and they have asked whether having the conduit for the electric there will change the cost.
- Bosch system on the hut needed to be reset. Ray did this by unlocking the gray thin rectangular box on the left wall that has the Bosch control panel in the hut (key is nearby) and using the tip of the key to hit the reset button. A light flashes really fast and you need to hit reset again and system reboots.
- Power Guaranteed has serviced the generator. The battery tested weak so should be replaced. Ray is going to check to see if we had replaced it before. There were other minor fixes done- Ray will pay this unless it is larger than \$1000.

### ACP issue

People might get a \$14 credit in May with residual funds. Lou loaded all the subscribers into a spreadsheet. We will subsidize for a year after their ACP acceptance date. Lou will check that with Whip City.

Should we still ask people to call Senators? Whip City already sent this info to all customers, so agreed we do not need to. Nobody opted out based on the lost subsidy and there was only one opt-in. We will need to redo language to communicate we're covering this subsidy in the interim. Lou will email directly to tell them. Lou will draft and send to the board, but she has the Board's ok to send. Lori Mars will be on the list. She was approved for lifeline benefits so that is enough. Whip city knows we're moving forward to subsidize.

Operations- April - 362 bills went out. 1 new application came in on Bullard Road in May, it is already activated, with a seasonal tag.

Warrant Articles- Ray sent out drafts which were all straightforward - see attachment.

Robert drafted articles for changing to an elected board. Board agrees to put this on the warrant. Ray will submit these articles along with others.

ARTICLE xx: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, sec. 55, to elect a municipal light board consisting of three citizens of the town, each for a term of three years, with the first election being held in May of 2025. Pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, of the three-member board, initially one shall be elected for one year, one for two years, and one for three years, and thereafter the terms shall be for three years. The municipal light board shall have the authority to construct, purchase or lease the municipal light plant in accordance with the vote of the town and to maintain and operate the same or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE xx+1: To see if the Town will abolish the appointed municipal light board in favor of the elected municipal light board effective as of the election being held in May of 2025 or take any other action relative thereto.

**Last hilltown meeting** - ONTs will be expiring at some point and there will be a need to upgrade to 2.5 Gb. It was unknown what the costs are going to be and how they are tracking who has new ones. We should get plenty of notice when upgrades are needed.

**Next meeting time** - June 4th, 6:30pm on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm

Warrant Articles:

Article XX. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$743,852 for the MLP Enterprise Fund beginning July 1, 2024 in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec 53 F ½, amount to be funded from the following sources; or take any action relative thereto.

#### **MLP Enterprise Budget**

Estimated Revenues	\$475,2
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Retained Earnings	\$268,570
Total	\$743,852

## Budget

	FY2025
ISP/NOC Internet+Phone	\$81,081
ISP/NOC Internet Only	\$67,200
ISP/NOC Phone Only	\$156
Static IP	\$622
Phone Est. Fees	\$3,506
Payment Processing	\$19,834
Routine maintenance	\$60,000
Insurance	\$8,123
General Admin	\$6,500
Backhaul	\$39,600
Bond fee for poles	\$6,000
Pole rental	\$22,620
POP electricity	\$5,309
Electronic Depreciation	\$30,781
Trucks on Retainer	\$4,240
Lifeline Annual Cost	\$3,000
CAF-2 Administration Fee	\$222
ACP Bridge Funding	\$12,600
LifeLine Subscriber costs	\$1,560

Digsafe Administration	\$992
Telephone Shipping	\$200
New Install and Infrastructure Design & Construction	\$15,000
Emergency and Unanticipated	\$26,636
Debt Service Payment	\$52,000
Reserve Fund (from FY24 Retained Earnings)	\$268,570

Direct Cost SUBTOTAL

\$736,352

**Indirect Costs**

Auditor	\$4,000
Legal	\$3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>

**Grand Total**

\$743,852

**Revenue**

\$475,282

**Reserve (from FY24 Retained Earnings)                      \$268,570**

ARTICLE XX. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$30,781 from the MLP Enterprise Fund to the Broadband Enterprise Capital Stabilization Fund, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec. 53 F ½, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE XX. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$246,122.31 from the special revenue fund designated for Connect America Fund Phase II disbursements, to reimburse the General Fund for

payment of the FY25 debt service on the Broadband Project, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec. 53 F ½, or take any action thereon.

ARTICLE XX. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$25,097 from MLP Enterprise Fund retained earnings to reimburse the General Fund for payment of the FY25 debt service on the Broadband Project, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, sec. 53 F ½, or take any action thereon.