

Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 6:30 pm

Minutes

Present: MLBoard - Robert Heller, Laurie DiDonato, Lou Leelyn; MLP Manager - Ray DiDonato.

Meeting called to order 6:31 pm

Minutes - Approval of June 4th minutes. Laurie made a motion to approve. Robert seconds. Motion passed.

BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program) Project: This program tracks unserved and underserved residents so they can get funding to build the connections. Whip City is asking MLBs to check the data and confirm any residences marked as unserved in the system and challenge any that are served or or can be served with a standard drop. Ray and Lou will each check half of the list. We have until July 20th to do this.

Digital Equity Plan - Gillian is the SelectBoard lead, and FRCOG is working on it. We are supposed to get the plan on the website for public comment. One idea would be for them to fund wireless hotspots, maybe on the town common or in the parking lot of town offices (maybe just need to remove the password access) we should talk to Entre and get rid of the password. public comment is being encouraged until July 12th. Once finalized then use that to apply for funding.

MLP Manager Report-

- Invoiced New Salem for our half of the grant money. They will invoice us for the portion done through Shutesbury.
- Town Audit- auditor would like us to do a monthly report to look at accounts in arrearage. It is a liability for the town so he wants a reporting process in place. Carolyn will help with this and we can get this info through the CRM easily. Lou is willing to run that every month. She will send to Carolyn and MLP address, and also maybe the accountant.
- It was proposed we consider paying another \$100k on principal. Ray will check with Carolyn on logistics if we decided to do that. Carolyn has come up with a couple of models of payments for switching to long term borrowing which would include 10-15 more years on loan.
- Retained earnings numbers will be available with August treasurer's report.
- It was proposed we consider reducing the rate again. Surplus is larger than we need it to be. Ray will make calculations for the next meeting.

Operations- two new activations in June - 360 bills went out in June.

Thanks to Robert for newsletter submission.

Next meeting- August 13th 6:30pm

Adjourned 7:10pm