

## Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 6:30 pm

### Minutes

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

Meeting called to order 6:30 pm

**Minutes** - Approval of July 9th minutes. Laurie made a motion to approve. Robert seconds. Motion passed. Laurie will contact Glenn about getting rid of password for wifi at town offices.

Ray will ask Carolyn about how we can pay more down on principal.

### **BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program) Project:**

We were asked to check data on which residents had service or potential for service and which didn't. When submitting information on this there were lots of bugs, so Ray couldn't submit and instead sent the details to MBI. There may be a rebuttal phase. It is only relevant for places that don't have service that we want to get funded for adding service. It seems that the only major residence is on Cooleyville road which would be expensive to provide - and that property is off grid so might not be compatible, so not worth pursuing.

**Digital Equity Plan** - We are waiting for different towns to approve the equity plan. Approval requires a Selectboard vote. Laurie will get it on the next SB agenda. It is not as important to worry about public wifi - but we will plan to get rid of the password at offices.

### **MLP Manager Report-**

- Whip City is close to implementing a service plan which covers acts of nature. It will add \$2-3 per subscriber per month - it comes to \$1080 a month or about \$12k a year. This type of maintenance has only cost us a max of 30k per year so far. This service plan fund is purely for emergencies/outages - not preventative maintenance or special projects. We wanted to clarify the current policy around who pays for customer drop outages. Ray will clarify. This service plan is pooled over all customers, so we may end up subsidizing other towns. It was questioned how often they will be revisiting this number. Ray will clarify.
- Ray approved the ride-out work that came to about \$6k.
- Should we lower rates? With 360 customers if we reduce the rate by \$5 we will see a reduction of \$1800 a month in revenue or \$21600 per year. We would reduce another \$3000 a year if we take a few dollars off of the phone rate.
- Knowing the annual surplus can help determine how we feel about this decrease. Ray felt \$40k a year is a comfortable surplus -which we can budget for in an emergency and unanticipated line. Ray will figure out the formula for the next meeting.
- We put over \$268,570 into our reserve in June.

**Operations-** Lou has reviewed our customer spreadsheet and found that 77% of premises are being served which is less than she thought. There are over 100 households not served. Lou will look at those not served to see if there is anything obvious that we can change to entice more customers.

**Meeting postings** - Robert needs to post meetings a week out. There is a form on the website to do the posting. The website is now the official posting place.

Next meeting- September 10th 6:30pm

Adjourned 7:22pm