

Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 6:30 pm

Minutes

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

Minutes - Approval of Aug 13th minutes. Laurie made a motion to approve. Robert seconds. Motion passed.

Outstanding receivables policy discussion - We need a policy to handle outstanding payments for drop costs. These are people who do not have service - they have been cut off for service or never took it - but have not paid their drop costs. Firstly we should make sure to tell them about the payment plan. One idea is to attach a lien on the property, so it has to be paid upon sale of the property. Laurie will talk to Carolyn to learn about lien possibility.

BEAD Rebuttals -We haven't heard anything back from MBI on this so nothing more has been done. There were no important issues to be concerned about.

Rate decrease discussion -

- Retained earnings for FY2024 was \$78k. We have \$303k in reserve.
- Ray is in favor of decreasing the internet rate by \$5 and considering an additional decrease in phone fees next quarter.
- Robert thinks waiting until spring is a better idea so we know what the winter has done.
- Our original estimates for the MLP fee were based on 265 subscribers and we have much more than that.
- Need to decide what amount of reserve makes us comfortable to handle a rate decrease.
- Laurie feels like we can decrease the rate.
- Defer decision about rate adjustment to the next meeting.

MLP Manager Report-

Service plan discussion

- Whip city is proposing a service plan that subscribers/towns pay into
- Per subscriber rate would change month to month depending on what the maintenance costs are. There is concern that we might end up subsidizing other towns that see more outages. Currently we are paying directly for repairs and maintenance and it may be lower than what this fee would come to. There is some uncertainty about what this would cover and who is paying for those repairs currently.
- We are paying at least 25k a year in repairs. Maybe suggest monitoring so if regions turn out to have higher repair costs than others it can be adjusted. Towns served by NG vs Eversource may make a difference.

Last Hilltown call -

- When WG&E rolls out the new 2.5 G ONTs they will replace all the 1G ones. Now they are replacing 1G ONTs with 2.5 G as needed, but throttling them back to 1G. When there is a complete upgrade, they might need to upgrade the hut to go along with this change so everyone has 2G service. Maybe when we do this big replacement we can use depreciation funds.
- If there are new builds that are part of the existing Census Block Group we should send an email to keep track of houses passed and prevent clawback of CAFII funds.

Operations- 363 subscribers as of Aug 2024

Next meeting- October 1 - 6:30pm

Adjourned 7:27pm