

Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting

Tuesday, January 07, 2025 6:30 pm

Minutes

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

Meeting called to order 6:40 pm

Minutes - Approval of November 19th minutes. Laurie made a motion to approve. Robert seconds. Motion passed.

Revisit minutes. Joe Cuneo replied and says 911 is the right place to call for tree limbs on wires.

Ray will check on the Andrew Short document about who pays for repairs.

Job descriptions: Robert has teased out an MLP manager one and an MLP Board one and they look good. Mary Ellen is also leaving her position so is not an option. We should post on listserve and to other towns. Maybe Carolyn and Glenn would be interested? Maybe other original BB committee members. For job posting, we can put description on webpage and listserve. Provide access to meeting documents and minutes and post our meeting times so anyone interested can join. Laurie will draft a more succinct posting including stipend for this purpose.

Lou is not going to run for the board so we need to also put a call out for a new board member.- do this soon as they'll need to get nomination papers in by March 17th.

MLP Manager Report-

- We have someone doing a payment plan. Whip city should be adding the amounts to their bill.
- We paid insurance bill for fiber
- Cafill - Ray did a docusign for this so we are all set.
- Amounts owed update-. We decided that anyone deceased we will let go, anyone who has moved away we will let go. Lou will check with Carolyn about people who owe money to. Lou will follow up to tell people they owe money. Lou will ask to see if Whip City can bill it and shut off service for not paying.
 - Official policy: The ISP/NOC will attempt to collect all debt for 90-days. After 90-days the MLP will make one more attempt to collect any outstanding debt. If the debt remains uncollected after 120 days it will be written off as bad debt. In the event that an account holder is deceased, the account will be closed and the debt will be written off as bad debt.
 - Laurie will send this to Carolyn to check with the auditor then we will vote on it.

We have a retained earnings of \$90000 and Ray feels we could reduce the rate now. Lou makes a motion to decrease the internet rate by \$5, effective with the next bill. Laurie seconds. Motion passed.

Communications- blast to all Wendell folks to let them know. Lou will reach out to see if that's possible.

It was proposed to decrease the activation fee - maybe to \$50 or \$75. No decision made.

It was proposed to consider subsidizing drop costs again. There is a concern we are not getting new customers because of this fee.

Board agreed to see if decreasing the rate will help us pick up a few more customers. Probably most people who aren't subscribing just don't want internet. Cell service likely isn't a big competition - 5g doesn't travel as far.

Operations- 361 subscribers in December and all but one account is clean for November.

Next meeting- February 11th - 6:30pm

Adjourned 7:49pm