

Municipal Light Board Member Responsibilities

The Municipal Light Board (MLB), consisting of three elected voting members, and up to 3 associate members, will be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Wendell Net fiber optic network (the Municipal Light Plant). These positions are unpaid.

MLB members should be able to commit to at least 3-5 hours per month of meetings, research, and paperwork, and are expected to appoint and oversee an Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Manager. Together the Board and Manager will be involved in the following tasks:

Coordinate MLP-Related Deadlines and Duties with Town and Contractors

- Provide annual report on operations to the Selectboard and Finance Committee
- Attend regularly scheduled MLP meetings and any other meetings with the ISP (Internet Service Provider) / NOC (Network Operations Center) and other parties.
- Track expenses and submit bills for payment to Town Accountant
 - ISP/NOC monthly bills and routine maintenance bills
 - Hut Electricity
 - Propane for generator and generator maintenance
 - Insurance, surety bond and fiber plant bills
 - Utility Pole rental
- Prepare and submit an annual operating budget to the Selectboard (SB) by March 1st. Prepare articles for annual town meeting budget, stabilization account (depreciation) deposits, payment of debt or debt interest, put money into reserve.
- Work to submit RFPs (Request For Proposals) or negotiate IGAs (Inter-Government Agreements) for contract renewals for ISP/NOC every 5 years approx. (next is in 2027)
- Manage vendor contracts and relationships: ISP/NOC, other Utilities (such as electric power), generator maintaince, propane, backhaul carriers, and other vendors and contractors.
- Create and manage policies around finances, rate adjustments, etc.
- Liaison with the ISP/NOC during an outage. May need to provide details, survey fiber in town, interact with fire and police. After a major storm,

- survey and report damage.
- Coordinate preventative maintenance on fiber, generator, hut.
- Maintain regular communication with the treasurer and accountant. Collaborate with treasurer on creating monthly MLP income and expense reports and review reports. Collaborate with treasurer on debt repayment strategies.

Manage Collaboration and Relationships

- Demonstrates leadership and vision in promoting regional cooperation and development
- Contact for relevant state agencies and utilities
- Maintain regular communications and best practice sharing with other towns including handling current agreements with New Salem and Shutesbury (IRUs for backhaul and redundancy).

Oversee Town MLP Related Communications and Events

- Manage communications and facilitate collaboration with the general public website upkeep (with help from the ISP/NOC), email announcements, phone announcements, mailings, rate changes, planned outages. Potentially dealing with customer complaints.

In order to effectively carry out these responsibilities, members of the Board should collectively demonstrate:

- Excellent communication skills and ability to clearly articulate thoughts and ideas
- Ability to listen and have productive dialogue during challenging conversations
- Willingness to learn
- Proven organizational and project management skills
- Excellent written communications skills
- Experience managing budgets
- Ability to travel to attend conferences, training, and other events as necessary to represent Wendell
- Willingness and ability to work evenings and weekends as job requires
- Technical expertise related to fiber/telecommunications networks

- Public sector financial management
- Experience with contracts and/or legal agreements