

## **Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025 6:30 pm**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** MLBoard - Robert Heller, Laurie DiDonato, Lou Leelyn; MLP Manager - Ray DiDonato. MLP Associate Manager (as of May 1) Renee Lazaras

Meeting called to order 6:33 pm

**Minutes** - Approval of April 8 and 15 minutes. Robert made a motion to approve. Laurie seconds. Motion passed.

Discussed creation of an MLP manager Town email account, but Renee is happy to use her different gmail account. If eventually we want to add that email address we need to go through Entre by contacting the Town Coordinator - Kelly Tyler.

Lou said she would still help with the transition after she leaves the Board.

### **Appointing the new MLP Manager**

Robert made a motion to appoint Renee Lazaras as associate MLP Manager effective May 1, 2025 and through June 30, 2025. Laurie seconded, motion passed. Robert will provide the Town Clerk with contact details for Renee the clerk can be in touch about swearing in: 503-334-7142 phone number, rlazaras@gmail.com.

### **Town Meeting Articles**

1. Budget - Ray will check on whether the salary number should be broken out. The Accountant has already recommended that indirect expenses that are not operating are broken out, so the town will only vote on these and not debt repayment or auditing.
2. Electronics depreciation stabilization fund will get a deposit as usual. There was a brief discussion on when to use these funds, as it is not for individual repairs. Funds will be used for upgrades due to aging equipment. One big upgrade will be in 2-3 years to replace all the 1 Gb ONTs with 2.5Gb, so this fund will be used for that. We will also need to change all the switches at some point and will use this fund.
3. There will be an article for the CAFII funding transfer to the town - this will be used to pay off part of the debt service.
4. There will also be an article to pay off the rest of principal plus interest.
5. Should we consider creating a separate stabilization account? The current reserve (\$270K) will go back to free cash, so is not available until it is certified by the state. If we put it in a stabilization account it will be available but will require a STM  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to remove it.
6. This year's retained earnings is \$92K and that will go into reserves for next year.
7. Can we use the current stabilization fund (depreciation) for this? Robert thinks not. It depends on the article that created it and how specific it was on how the money can be used.
8. Do we need to vote to put \$92K in reserve before the ATM - Ray will check with Carolyn.

9. Ray will print out budget for ATM

Long term borrowing goes out 10 years and there are 6 years of CAFII, so we'll have 4 years of debt repayment when there is no CAFII. There should be a plan to save for this.

Are surplus funds held in an interest bearing account? Ray believes yes, Carolyn has been putting some money in CDs etc.

**MLP Manager Report**

- There was a small outage - equipment in the hut went out affecting 32 homes - outage lasted from mid-afternoon until the next morning.
- There is a hilltown meeting tomorrow at noon. Invites go to the MLP address.
- Generator maintenance is scheduled in June.

**Trees question** - can MLP pay for tree removal particular to fiber? Rowe has done some tree maintenance with MLP funds. They do their own trimming every few years. During ride-out ask Whip City to look for trees /branches that could be trimmed. What if the trees or branches are on private property? Does the ride-out check drops? Probably not, any branches on private property could probably be taken down by the homeowner. Lou will look into legality around this issue.

**Operations-** 363 bills went out for April. Only 16 tech tickets with simple fixes - reset the router types of calls.

**Next meeting-** May 20th - 6:30pm - zoom

Adjourned 7:43pm