

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

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025 6:30 pm**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** MLBoard - Robert Heller, Laurie DiDonato; MLP Manager - Ray DiDonato. MLP Associate Manager Renee Lazaras

Meeting called to order 6:33 pm

**Minutes** - Approval of April 29th minutes. Laurie made a motion to approve. Robert seconds. Motion passed.

**Board Reorganization-** Lou Leelyn has left the Board and no other person was elected to fill her spot. Robert moved that Laurie become the chair of the Board- Laurie seconded - motion passed.

### **Budget adjustment for the ATM -**

The Caf II money will go to the MLP and they will reimburse the town for the full amount of debt service. Somehow this year it changed how the CAF II money affected the debt exclusion so it needed to be handled differently.

- CAF 2 - connect america fund phase 2- to be used on debt service or to build or upgrade the system. so far been used to pay debt service.
- Robert made a motion to accept the budget adjustments provided by treasurer- Laurie seconded- motion passed.
- Ray will be at town meeting to help present - 7pm.

### **For Manager transition:**

- Carolyn provides monthly reports on income and expenses. We can request any changes.
- Bills - most come electronically - printed copies are often in mailbox at the town offices.
- Laurie needs to give Renee login for national grid
- Renee needs to get a key for Town offices. Does she need to get sworn in? Renee will follow up with Anna.
- Ray needs to make sure emails are going to Renee or MLP.

### **Low income subsidy -**

- Whip City is now able to manage this. They will charge a \$500 one time fee and \$250 annual fee to manage it. Town can provide names of accounts they want to receive subsidies - the list needs to be updated every year.
- Towns are using Lifeline to determine eligible customers. Whip city has this list.  
<https://www.fcc.gov/lifeline-consumers>.
- We can decide to do this anytime. It was agreed to see what our retained earnings are at the end of FY25 to decide if we can do it -

- Hilltown CDC (community development corporation) will also do vetting - don't know if there will be a charge.
- In the past it was a \$30 credit and we had about 30 people on it so the cost came to \$12-14,000 a year.

### **Tree Policy**

- Legal info from Lou makes it clear that branches reaching over property line are the property owner's responsibility. Laurie will pass this on to Tree warden. It may be worth getting Whip City's recommendation on whether any tree work is advisable. National Grid doesn't do as good a job at secondary roads, so may be worth a second look. Other MLPs do seem to do some tree work.
- For the spring ride-out nothing was mentioned about trees. Ray will ask if they look at drops during these.

### **Managers report**

- Generator service - In spring there is a major preventative maintenance check (PM), and in fall a minor PM. Any time the generator is used for a power outage we need to call suburban propane to refill.
- Situation in Rowe - MLP manager got into trouble when subscriber emails were used for campaigns for an SB member. Customer phone numbers and emails are confidential. We should draft a policy. Renee can draft something like that. Ray can send some language.

**Operations-** 363 bills went out for May. No balances past due.

**Next meeting-** June 17th - 6:30pm - zoom

Adjourned 7:41pm