

## Wendell Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 6:30 pm

### Minutes

**Present:** MLP Board - Robert Heller, Laurie DiDonato, Lou Leelyn ; MLP Manager - Ray DiDonato.  
Meeting called to order 6:33 pm

**Minutes** - Approval of Nov 7th minutes. Laurie makes a motion to approve. Robert seconds . Motion passed unanimously.

#### MLP Manager report:

- We currently have around 51K of surplus for this fiscal year. In general we average \$21k a month in surplus. If we have a light winter we'll have another \$80 k of surplus for this year. We have 42K of retained earnings from last year that we didn't allocate.
- Robert reported that the RRR project aimed to start on Q1 24. Ray wants to know the total cost of that so we can better plan. We set aside 50k of retained earnings, but that might not be enough.
- NG pole replacements - We are not sure of the cost or when we'll need to move the fiber. Ray is trying to get this info from Whip City. Ray thinks we'll have 6 months to a year to do the transfer. Shutesbury is getting notices of poles that they can start working on. We counted 132 poles going from LVR to center.
- Ray wants to relinquish the MLP Manager role at the end of fiscal year. Ray can help with hanging projects. Ray and Laurie will need to write up job description. Someone could get compensated. An understanding of broadband would be good. The idea of sharing a manager from another town was suggested. Many are doing MLP accounting through Wired West. Maybe the board can split the responsibilities, so a manager is not needed.
- Ray wants us to be aware of a competitor: Starlink is now available in Wendell - \$90 a month and \$5.95 installation – this is working off a SpaceX satellite.
- Ray thinks we should keep the rate the same for a few years. Laurie wants to make decisions based on how much we have in a stabilization account.
- Extensive discussion and uncertainty about what our balance is. Ray will check with the accountant and Treasurer to figure it out.
- New reporting requirements are happening for internet providers- like a nutritional label- Whip City is working on what this will look like.

#### Operations:

361 bills went out in November. Very little in arrears. How many viable households are there? Lou will check to see, so we can have a number for the percentage of the town covered.

**Next meeting time** - Jan 9th, 6:30pm on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm