

Wendell Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6:30 pm

Minutes

Present: MLP Board - Robert Heller, Laurie DiDonato, absent Lou Leelyn ; MLP Manager - Ray DiDonato.
Meeting called to order 6:38 pm

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

RRR

The current cost estimate for this project is below 50k so it can be covered by what is already allocated in the budget. Mary Ellen is working on an Indefinite Right of Use(IRU) agreement with Shutesbury which will allow us (and NS) to use their dark fiber for our purposes- An IRU is usually for 20 years. We have only 5 miles that we need this to cover - NS and Wendell will have to cost share on whatever that cost is.

Wendell will retain MBI as our primary backhaul and Crown castle will be our secondary - NS is vice versa. WG&E wanted a verbal go ahead so they could order parts. Ray will communicate that. Work will happen on March 15th or 21st and they will let customers know ahead of time as there will be an outage.

MLP Manager report:

NG pole work. There was discussion on where the funds might come from to pay for the fiber transfer - Shutesbury cost was \$80k, but they have more poles. Some of the NG work caused an outage. It was restored quickly - Asplundh will pay for fix.

Budget - Ray confirmed that there will be \$293667 in retained earnings. It was agreed we should set up a stabilization account.

- Legislation passed, don't have to wait for CAFII 2 funds to be certified to use it.
- Temporary installation of fiber optic when ground is frozen has a cost of \$200 - Ray feels this cost would be the subscribers responsibility. Board agrees. Ray will communicate that to Whip City.
- Subscriber asked about the activation fee - our policy is that it is applied to every new subscriber. Whip city doesn't charge us for a new customer.
- Winter is coming and the propane tank is at 80% capacity- basically full. If there is an outage we might want to call and have them top it off. Is there a charge for the delivery? Ray is not sure and will ask.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm