

## **Minutes: New Salem Broadband Committee/Municipal Light Board**

**Date:** January 19, 2023

**Time:** The meeting convened at 12:30 pm and adjourned at 1:23 pm

**Place:** Google Meet

### **List of members present:**

MaryEllen Kennedy (MEK)  
Kathy Soule-Regine (KSR)  
Sue Dunbar (SD)  
Sue Cloutier (SC)

### **List of documents submitted to the committee for consideration:**

- Agenda
- Minutes of December 8, 2022, BB/MLP meeting

### **Discussion and Decisions:**

- **Minutes**
  - Voted to accept December 8, 2022, minutes as presented.
    - Moved by SC, seconded by SD.
    - No discussion.
    - Vote: Unanimous to accept as presented
- **WCF Monthly Partnership Meeting December 28, 2022**
  - Hilltown customers - 8687
  - New Salem ACP – 31, Lifeline – 3
  - CAFII Update
    - Disbursement of funds will be delayed until later in 2023 to allow for additional buildout to maximize funds.
    - Legislation has been introduced to allow towns/MLPs to use funds immediately upon disbursement and not have to wait for free cash to be approved.
- **Eastern RRR Meeting with WCF & Wendell, 1/5/23**
  - Discussed preliminary plan and reviewed sample plan from Northern Tier.
  - WCF is checking pricing and options with Verizon and Crown Castle as potential 2<sup>nd</sup> backhaul providers to diversify path and providers.
  - WCF is investigating possible diversification of the MBI route (potentially running south through Northampton?) as Wendell and New Salem currently both use the Orange POP.
- **Quarterly meeting with Brian Sullivan and Andrew Short 1/6/23**
  - Discussed improving installation billing; better communication with all parties, and faster processing of new installations; customers continue to be pleased with tech support; encouraged them to reach out to us as needed regarding customers.
- **WiredWest update from 12/21, 1/4 & 1/18 Board Mtg**
  - Reviewed RFP and discussed and adjusted the ranking of the desired abilities and offerings.
  - Reviewed and approved updated RFP (with 2-month response time) and contract.
  - Finance Committee investment strategy approved.
  - Kent working with WCF to improve the process for tracking installation and other costs.

- **Communicated with unconnected East Eagleville Residents regarding December 31 deadline.**
  - Mailed, emailed, and called unconnected parties. One more signed-up before the deadline.

#### **DISCUSSION**

- Town Report – MEK will prepare a draft for review at the next board meeting.
- HVAC Maintenance contract – MEK will investigate a joint solution with Wendell.
- Town conducting tree/road survey. Contact Calvin later in February to discuss MBI/Verizon pole maintenance on 202.
- Investigate Lewis Tree Service tree maintenance around town poles.
- MEK and KSR work on budget.

#### **OTHER ITEMS NOT FORESEEN**

#### **NEXT MEETINGS:**

WiredWest Board meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 pm, Zoom

WCF/Hilltown Partners call: Wednesday, January 25, 12:00 pm, Microsoft Meeting

BB/MLP Conference call: To be determined. Google meet