



**Chesterfield MLP Minutes
June 28, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.
Town Offices, 422 Main Road, Chesterfield
Select Board Room**

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Mr. Fuller.

Select Board Members Present: Roger Fuller, Patricia Colson-Montgomery, Donald Willard

Select Board Members Absent: None

Town Administrator Present: Brenda Lessard

Public Officials Present: Justin West, MLP Manager

General Public Present:

General Public via zoom:

Recorder of Minutes: Brenda Lessard

Acronyms Used:

MBI: Massachusetts Broadband Initiative

MLP: Municipal Light Plant

WG&E: Westfield Gas & Electric

Mr. West gave an update on where progress is on the Broadband installations. There are 525 unique locations signed up out of a possible 644 locations. This represents 81.5%.

There has been some cancellation of service from subscribers who have sold their homes. Ms. Montgomery asked about a drop policy. Discussion about whether there was a minimum length of service included in the final contract. It had been discussed but Mr. West said it was not included.

Currently there are 427 active accounts. The town needs 451 active accounts to get to the 70% mark for reimbursement for drops. There are state dollars available once the town hits the mark of 70%. There are 39 locations waiting for service due to lack of make-ready which includes Mount Road, Buck Road at Main Road and the Damon Pond area including Antin Road.

The hut is monitored from Westfield. WG&E wants further monitoring equipment installed which includes cameras. This is an additional \$15,000.00 charge. Further discussion will be needed.

There is also talk of having two lines coming from the hut in case of failure. If the second line is from MBI, there is a monthly charge of \$1,200.00 for each line. This would allow WG&E to "switch over" to the other line. Mr. West discussed another possible option is to be interconnected with other neighboring towns instead of the MBI route.

The MLP Board will reimburse the town for any operating expenses and back billing will need to be checked. Mr. Fuller asked Mr. West about reconciling accounts with WG&E and what deposits come

back to the town. Mr. West will be setting up his own accounting software and watching the revenue come into the town and the bills that will go out. He is relying on STRIPE to be accurate. Mr. Fuller is concerned that someone will need to reconcile money coming in from WG&E and matches with the town accounts and STRIPE. Mr. Fuller opined that the town treasurer is not balancing the books for the MLP. He also wants to ensure the town treasurer is not overwhelmed with extra work.

Appointments:

Mr. West presented a list of nine possible candidates for the MLP Board. The Select Board representative will be Roger Fuller and the Finance Committee representative will be Larry Cervelli. The Select Board members individually along with Mr. West chose their top three candidates for the MLP board out of the nine candidates that were presented. The top three chosen were: Joe Gazillo, Jeff Frechette and Kady von Schoeler. A fourth person was chosen to serve, John Lyons, in case one of the top three decide not to serve. A first meeting will be held at the end of July. Ms. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard, the Select Board voted unanimously to appoint the following people to the MLP Board:

MLP Board:

Larry Cervelli, Finance Committee
Roger Fuller, Selectboard
Joseph Gazillo
Jeffrey Frechette
Kady von Schoeler

Term expires:

6/30/2024
6/30/2024
6/30/2023
6/30/2023
6/30/2022

The seats are all three-year terms but terms were staggered for the first appointment. Mr. West will remain the MLP Manager and he has appointed Jack Henry as the Assistant MLP Manager. Mr. West noted he had four responses for an assistant and he felt Mr. Henry was the best suited but he was ambivalent about the job. Mr. West plans to leave by the end of the year and hopes Mr. Henry will take over as Manager at that time. The Select Board wants an assurance that whomever is chosen will be willing to take over as Manager or at the very least be willing to train a new Manager when Mr. West leaves at the end of the year.

Mr. West presented the agreement with Lake Damon Corporation for signing. This agreement will allow access to maintain the broadband system. Ms. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Willard, the Select Board voted unanimously to sign the Broadband Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with Lake Damon Corporation.

Meeting Adjourned

With no further business the meeting adjourned 12:15 p.m.