

New Ashford Municipal Light Plant Board Meeting
New Ashford Town Hall
November 30, 2018

MLP Board Present: Ken McInerney (Manager), Jason Jayko, Mark Phelps
Others Present: Lori Jayko, Cody Phelps

Meeting opened at 5:04

1. Drop Policy Discussion: The Board reviewed a document from Whip City with the addresses and install types - aerial, short distance, long distance, and underground. The underground numbers comprise contractors doing the work and new 2-inch conduit. Jason will ask Whip City if conduit is necessary. Customers can dig their own trench. The worst-case scenario estimate to cover all the drops for the entire town is \$180,423.67. The average aerial drops are 125 feet for the long drops, 386 feet for aerial network extensions, and 596 feet for non-standard underground drops. Total average drop length is 369 feet. The average connection will cost \$1,324. Wired West's Drop Policy was leaning towards covering the first 300 hundred feet. Otis is trying to cover everyone.

There is approximately \$140,000 remaining of the Broadband grant. There is \$217,000 committed for expenses made up of: \$161,000 for Sertex, \$54,000 for the room equipment, and \$2,200 for plumbing removal and a/c hook up. Including the cost of the drops, remaining anticipated expenses equal \$397,624. Once the grant money is applied to the expenses, there is a remainder of \$257,624.00 to pay. The Board would like to alleviate as much of the tax burden as possible. Free cash and the stabilization fund total about \$543,498. If the town uses those funds to pay the \$257,624, there will be \$285,874 left. The MLP will hold a forum on December 12 to discuss this with town residents. A drop policy that covers all houses will help increase the take rate for internet service. There's a conference call about the CAF2 funding next week. CAF2 can be used for depreciation.

2. Wired West: Jason does not see a benefit for the town's remaining with Wired West. Whip City will provide coverage for repairs for equipment and will designate a vehicle and a tech in the area to cover the town for minor repairs. Ken made a motion to pay Wired West for this year and then sever ties, seconded by Mark. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Equipment Room: The equipment for the room will cost around \$54,000. This includes switches, cables, and future proofing the equipment for potential growth. Also, service can be sold from the edges of town. The doorknob, tile for the floor, and cameras for the room will be paid for out of the Broadband account.

4. Any Other Unforeseen Business: Ken will review his notes about the MLP to see if there needs to be an organizational chain of command.

Meeting adjourned 6:35