

Petersham Municipal Light Plant Board Meeting Minutes of August 8 2018

MLP Board members present: Chip Bull, John Blum, Tom Gargunas, Nancy Allen.

Members absent: Andre Pierre

Others present: Chris Lynch-Matrix Design Group, Roy Nilson-petershamcommon.com

Chair Chip Bull opened the meeting at 7 PM.

With Clerk Andre Pierre absent, previous meeting Minutes were not reviewed.

Monson Turnpike Project Bid Opening

Chip and Nancy reported that four bids came in by the deadline of 4 PM, this same day of 8/8/18. One contractor was present for the bid openings which was held as scheduled at 4:30 PM with Chip opening the bids. This project is for trenching & installing conduit along Monson Turnpike so as to connect the northern section of town to the broadband line.

MLP Board reviewed the bids in general. As planned, Matrix engineers will review the proposals for engineering specifications and make a recommendation; Petersham will review for procurement process.

The MLP thanked Chris Lynch, Zachary Magrid, and Greg Daly of Matrix for their work on the specifications and providing two information sessions for the bidders.

Teleconference with MBI of 8/7/18

Chip and Nancy provided an update on the discussion with Peter Larkin and Michael Baldino of MBI.

A summary memo of the teleconference was composed and e-mailed out to Peter and Mike and to others in the CC including to Sen. Gobi and Rep. Whipps. (Memo attached.) In summary: The agreed to goal is that by Sept. 30, 2018 a final Agreement will be signed between MBI and Town of Petersham to receive its designated funding (\$880,000) per conditions/milestones to be detailed in the final Agreement.

Discussion ensued about an apparent/possible strategy change by MBI to fund some towns immediately without milestone payments or over the course of the project with multiple milestone payments rather than a 'Payment in Arrears' with a single end of project milestone payment method as is the current definition for Petersham.

Three other provider companies talking with other towns are private and similar to Matrix: Fiber Connect for Monterey; Crocker Communications for Tolland and Sandisfield; and White Valley Wireless for Savoy, Florida, Monroe, and Hawley. Wi Valley was a Flexible Grant Program (FGP) responder the same as the Matrix and Petersham relationship.

If these towns receive payments up front then Petersham will want to review the same status.

It was noted that none of the MBI designated funds of \$880K are going to Matrix for the Petersham project.

Make Ready Process: Verizon and NG

With utility pole make-ready estimates underway by both Verizon and Natl. Grid and coming in to the MLP, we are still waiting for both utilities to do the actual make-ready work. Matrix cannot begin any actual work on the roads & poles until the utilities finish their work.

It was reminded that the original pole qty. provided by MBI and from which budgets were based on that qty. was dramatically under-estimated. This difference effects the total make-ready budget the Broadband Committee had originally prepared. The current per pole make-ready figure is \$480; with estimates still coming in. The total pole qty. to be used is 1,855 poles; the budget had originally used a qty. of 1,300 poles.

John B. is tracking all cost information he receives from Matrix for both utilities estimated make-ready costs.

Verizon: Verizon combines a Tru-Up cost with a make-ready cost to arrive at their total make-ready estimate per license.

The MLP reviewed Verizon Tru-Up costs. As of this date, the MLP has received Verizon invoices for nearly all of the Tru-Up licenses (13 total licenses). All have been paid or are in progress with the town accountant & treasurer for payment.

While we have received no actual invoices for Verizon make-ready fees, Matrix is tracking those estimates as they come in and providing the tracker list to the MLP.

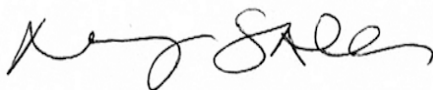
National Grid: John B. is working with Chris and Zach to try to finalize real Natl. Grid invoices for their make-ready work. As with the Verizon tracker, Matrix is sending the MLP the tracker list of those costs as the individual license amounts are released by Natl. Grid.

Discussion ensued about how best to proceed with make-ready payments to keep the project moving forward. The focus was on selecting the optimum licenses based on the most logical and productive sections of work – the utilities would complete their work, followed immediately by Matrix beginning their work.

MOTION: A motion was made for the MLP to pay the four (4) outstanding Verizon Tru-Up invoices due next week on 8/12 and 8/13; then pay Verizon and National Grid make-ready estimates for Licenses #1, 3, 5, and 6 in that order. The Motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Allen
Secretary, pro tem

Approved at MLP Meeting of Sept. 14, 2018