

Minutes
Washington Municipal Light Board
September 27, 2023

- The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.
- Attendees: Pauline Combe-Clark, Kent Lew, John McElwain, Richard Spencer
- The minutes of the July 20 and July 28 regular meetings and the July 20 executive session were accepted unanimously. (Motion - Combe-Clark, Second – Spencer)
- Next on the agenda was a recap of the September 26 “Meet-and-Greet” meeting at Whip City Fiber (WCF). This meeting was primarily social. However, there were two notable takeaways. WCF is significantly expanding its workforce. WCF is also investing in upgraded OSS/BSS (Operational Support System/ Business Support System) software, which could lead to more timely interactions with municipal light plant (MLP) managers. Incidentally, there was news that all of the hill towns in the coalition have met/exceeded the requirement to have at least 95% coverage (availability to actual/potential customers). The actual measure of availability was 98%. The speed testing requirement has also been met. Achieving these two requirements mean that the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF2) monies should be released in January of 2024.
- Next on the agenda was an update on the Resiliency, Redundancy, Reliability (R, R, & R) project for the southern tier. Washington and Blandford were brought on line on September 25. Becket failed to launch on September 26, but will be brought on line tonight (9/27) along with Otis.
- The MLP manager (Lew) presented a proposal from FM Generator Inc. for monitoring of the generator at the HUT. The total initial cost is \$1515, consisting of \$465 for equipment, \$675 for labor, and \$375 for miscellaneous, which

Commented [DS1]: All of the hill towns in the coalition

includes \$360 for the first year's subscription fee. Henceforth WW will cover the subscription fees, as has been done for the other member towns. Hopefully, WW will also cover this initial fee. Acceptance of the proposal and payment of the \$1515 was approved unanimously. (motion – McElwain, second - Combe-Clark)

- Next on the agenda was an update on participation in the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) Digital Equity Planning program. No one from this board attended the September 26 “listening session”. However, twenty Washington residents submitted paper responses to the MBI survey. Other Washington responses were submitted electronically.
- The board entered executive session to discuss WW strategy relative to ongoing contract negotiations with potential internet service provider/network operator (ISP/NO) contractors at 7:44 PM. The motion to enter executive session (Combe-Clark, second – McElwain) was accepted unanimously on a roll-call vote.
- The regular meeting resumed at 8:22 PM with the only remaining business being the setting of the next meeting date. That will be on November 2 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Spencer, Clerk