

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
2_12_2025	5:00pm EST	On Line Zoom Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress	
Minutes keeper	Jim Hemingway	
Committee Attendees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayle Huntress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hemingway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Martin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	
Other		
Approved minutes January 22, 2025		

Gayle will represent the MLP and meet with Shutesbury's Finance Committee next Tuesday at 6:30pm to present and discuss our FY2026 budget.

Hut Report - Several battery failures with some of the ancillary equipment in the hut were fixed by Graeme such as those found in the smoke detector and the SimpliSafe hardware. Other tech issues included a short term failure in the ability of Kohler to communicate online with our backup generator, something that has happened a few times in the past.

Gayle reports that 34 service tickets were issued in January, some of which were duplicates, 24 of which were not. Currently, our MLP account has a balance of roughly \$44,000.

Not surprisingly, insurance coverage has become a big issue thanks to all the insurance losses nationwide in the last three years. Deductibles have shot up to \$100,000 for our current policy with MIIA and that is the only option with them, and so Gayle has requested coverage with PURMA (Public Utilities Risk Management Association) that would change our deductible from \$15,000 to \$25,000. On the upside the annual premium will reduce by about \$3000, exact amount to be determined with final written quote.. Our current policy expires on the 20th of February and if all goes well with this change, PURMA will confirm our new policy with them this coming Friday.

Given all the uncertainties in the insurance market, Steve thought the MLP ought to increase the insurance line in the FY2026 budget to \$12,000, a suggestion that was agreed to by everyone.

Our budget for FY26 includes a \$6 fee increase for our subscribers beginning in FY26 due to both the inflationary pressures of the last 3 years and the need to replenish our reserves which were drawn down significantly to pay for moving our cables and equipment onto National Grid's new poles . SHELd's rates for subscriber charge for ISP plus service calls will increase significantly in FY2026, along with some of the other parts (e.g. insurance) of our budget.

The MLP decided to table the discussion of ACP funding in the budget for FY26 because we don't have a good idea of how many of our subscribers will be applying for it, given the upcoming change in our monthly subscriber fee.

Except for the change in our monthly subscriber fee brought on by the renewal of our ISP contract with SHELD, most of the changes to the FY26 budget are relatively minor ones relative to the one Gayle and the MLP presented to the Finance Committee last year. The MLP voted 3-0 to approve this FY 2026 budget which will be presented to the Shutesbury Finance Committee next Tuesday.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.