

Block Island Utility District

December 3, 2019  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road 11:30 AM**

## **Minutes**

Present: Barbara MacMullan, Everett Shorey, William Penn, Mary Jane Balsler, Elliot Taubman  
Also, Present: Jeff Wright, Nathan Cleveland (RI-OER), a representative from the Block Island Times, and several members of the public

Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 11:45 AM.

### **1. Commissioner's Report**

- Board Chair MacMullan requested that the election of officers be postponed until everyone was present at the next meeting. There was no objection.
- Board Chair MacMullan reported that Christine Grele had resigned for personal reasons and that we would be seeking a replacement soon.

### **2. Public Input**

- There was no public comment.

### **3. Approve Minutes of October 23, 2019 Regular Meeting**

**William Penn moved to accept the October 23, 2019 minutes, seconded by Mary Jane Balsler. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **4. Receive and Act on Treasurers Report**

- Treasurer William Penn presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that had reviewed the disbursement report, payroll summary and credit card statements for the month of October and all was in order.
- He also reviewed the October month end financials noting that the Utility Districts equity ration had improved to nearly 14%.

**Elliot Taubman moved to accept the Treasurers Report, seconded by Mary Jane Balsler. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **4a. Review and Act on Audit Proposals**

- William Penn reported that they had received only one proposal from Marcum Accountants and Advisors. Penn reported that the firm had met all of the qualifications and schedules but that the price was higher than expected. A lengthy discussion was had.

**Board Chair MacMullan moved to accept the proposal subject to two conditions; that the contract award period be limited to one year and that the proposal cost was a "price not to exceed". William Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **5. Receive and Act on Presidents Report**

- Jeff Wright presented the President's Report (on file) and discussion was had.

**William Penn moved to accept the President's Report. Elliot Taubman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Receive an Energy Efficiency Program Presentation by RI-OER**

- Rhode Island Office of Energy's Nathan Cleveland (Programming Services Officer, Energy Efficiency) presented a draft Block Island Saves Efficiency Plan for consideration and solicited comments and feedback. A lengthy discussion was had and many comments were made from the attending Utility District membership, particularly about programmable thermostats, heat pump and AC technology and lighting. Member Chris Warfel informed the RI-OER that head sent comments via e-mail to them.

No action was taken. Nathan Cleveland left the meeting following his presentation.

**7. Receive an Update on the Rate Case Filing**

- Jeff Wright provided a quick overview of the schedule.

**8. Receive an Act on Net Metering Proposal**

- Jeff Wright provided a draft net metering tariff proposal (on file). A lengthy discussion was had and many comments were provided by the attending membership.
- Jeff Wright committed to researching the billing and metering requirements to minimize the second meter can installation by locating it in series instead of direct connected to the utility grid. This will involve some research by the billing software company NISC.
- Member Chris Warfel requested that the Board take no cation so that he could have time to digest that proposal.

No action was taken.

**Mary Jane Balsler left the meeting at 2:25 PM.**

**9. Receive an Act on the 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets**

- Jeff Wright provided a proposed 2020 Revenue, Operating and Capital Budget in both summary format and provided the full detail by cost code as was presented in the recent rate filing.
- Jeff Wright further explained two additional Capital budget line items that were not included in the rate case; the spare transformer and employee housing. He explained that if they were approved with the 2020 capital budget that he would present a CFC loan agreement for approval in the next regular meeting which would then be followed by a debt filing.
- Board Chair MacMullan explained that she considered power supply procurement part of the 2020 operating budget and informed the Board that Jeff would be soliciting bids for and executing a power supply contract for 3-5 years in length as long as it was within a reasonable range of the amount budgeted for 2020.
- William Penn offered his suggestion that the BOD approve the summary budget to hold Jeff accountable to.

**Board Treasurer William Penn moved to approve the proposed 2020 Operating and Capital Budgets. Barbara MacMullan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**10. Receive an Act on EEI Master Agreement for BP Power Purchase Agreement**

- Jeff Wright informed the Board that he would be executing the agreement (on file) in preparation for the upcoming power supply solicitation. There was no objection to Jeff Wright executing the agreement under his authority as President.

**11. Discuss and Act on Draft Conflict of Interest Policy**

- This item was deferred until the next regular meeting.

**12. Discuss and Act on the 2020 Calendar for BIUD Regular and Annual Meetings**

- This item was deferred until the next regular meeting when everyone was present.

**13. Discuss and Act on Litigation.**

- This item was deferred until the next regular meeting.

**William Penn moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 PM. Barbara MacMullan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**Approved: January 16, 2020**