

Block Island Utility District
February 29, 2020
Town Hall, Old Town Road 4:00 PM

Minutes

Present: Barbara MacMullan, William Penn, Elliot Taubman and Everett Shorey. Absent: Mary Jane Balsler.

Also Present: Jeff Wright, a representative from the Block Island Times, and several members of the public.

Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

1. Public Input

- There was no public input.

2. Commissioner's Report

- Barbara MacMullan welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked for nominations for the officer positions. Barbara moved and Everett seconded to nominate the following slate of officers: Barbara MacMullan – Chair, Everett Shorey – Vice-Chair, Bill Penn - Treasurer, Elliot Taubman – Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Review and Act on Annual Utility District Meeting Schedule

A 2020 calendar of proposed meetings was provided. A discussion was had, some modifications were made to dates and the calendar (attached) was moved by Barbara MacMullan and seconded by Bill Penn with all regular meetings to start at 11:00 AM and the annual meeting to start at 4:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approve Minutes of the January 16, 2020 regular meeting.

Barbara MacMullan moved to accept the January 16, 2020 minutes as presented, seconded by William Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Receive and Act on Treasurers Report

- William Penn presented the Treasurer's Report (on file), noting that all disbursements complied with all policies.
- He provided an update on the audit and raised concerns regarding the schedule.
- He reviewed the financials as of December 31, 2019.
- He presented the details of the CFC Revolving Line of Credit renewal (\$670,000) and presented a Certificate of Resolutions and Incumbency (on record) for consideration by the Board.

Bill Penn moved to approve the CFC Certificate of Resolutions and Incumbency, seconded by Barbara MacMullan. The motion was approved unanimously and the certificate was signed by Secretary Elliot Taubman.

- Bill Penn then presented the preliminary drawings and site plan for the President's house and a discussion was had regarding schedule, design and bidding processes.

Barbara MacMullan moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Everett Shorey. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Receive and Act on Presidents Report

- President Jeffery Wright presented the President's Report and answered questions from those present.
- He presented that annual sales for 2019 were essentially flat compared to 2018.
- He reported that 6 weeks of the 10 planned for tree trimming had been completed.
- He reported that pole setting was underway and that the crews has set 9 the first day and spotted 36 the following day before leaving for home due to a storm.
- He reported that the 3A circuit rebuild was complete. That all clean up from the 2019 work plan was complete and they were now beginning the 2020 work plan of replacing approximately 150 poles and preparing for the voltage conversion.
- He reported that ATT would be soon building three pole top antenna sites which will generate \$1,200 per year each.
- He reported on the regulatory activities that was a higher than normal level of activity.
 - He reported that the Retail Choice petition had the support of the DPUC and he expected that to be approved in an upcoming open meeting by the PUC.
 - He reported that the efficiency plan was filed.
 - He reports that the housing/spare transformer debt filing was still not complete pending discussions with National Grid re: the transformer ownership.
 - He also reported that the annual Standard Offer and Transmission reconciliation was on schedule to be filed on March 31.
- He reported that BIUD and their environmental consultant Ron Schroder were working on scheduling a meeting with DEM to discuss the GZA findings and clean up as well as a discussion re: running engines for peak shaving.
- He reported that he had executed the Gravel Pit Solar PPA and that it would be filed for approval soon.

Barbara MacMullan moved to accept the President's Report, seconded by Everett Shorey. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Net Metering

- President Jeffery Wright presented an overview of the proposed tariff (on record).
- A discussion ensued and in response to public comment that the new tariff should be publicized more, Barbara MacMullan requested that we publish the tariff in the BI Times and if possible created a matrix to show the different charges/credits and what each is based on and when they are adjusted.
- The Board requested one modification which was to eliminate the time limit for credit balances to carry forward.

Barbara MacMullan moved to approve the proposed Net Metering Tariff subject to making the requested modifications and publishing it in the BI Times. The motion was seconded by Eliot Taubman. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Review and Act on the BIUD Roof Top Solar Project

- Jeffery Wright presented the BIUD roof top solar proposal. The project is rated 92.0 kW DC and 70.1 kW AC and is being donated to the Utility District by a local donor who chooses to remain unnamed. The project funding is being administered through the RI Foundation.
- He presented the Board with an agreement that would be executed by BIUD and the Donor that would define how the production revenue would be accounted for and how the revenue would be used which is to be limited to three cost items: 1) Capital infrastructure improvements (funds to be assigned to a restricted account "Solar Restricted Fund", for paying for eventual de-commissioning at the end of the asset life, 2) pay for de-commissioning at the end of life of the asset, and 3) maintenance of the system.

Elliot Taubman moved moved to approve the roof top solar agreement. The motion was seconded by Everett Shorey. During discussion the Board thanked the RI Foundation, the unnamed donor and the program representative, Tony Pappas for the very generous donation. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Rate Case Update

- Jeffery Wright presented that the RI-DPUC had submitted their testimony which was overall supportive of our proposal with some suggestions for reducing some budget items that would be netted to the capital budget.
- He reported that the next steps would be to draft a settlement agreement with the RI-DPUC and submit it to the RI-PUC. He reported at this time no one on the team felt a need to file rebuttal testimony.
- He reported that the mainland public hearing had not been scheduled yet.
- He reported that the evidentiary hearings would be held May 5, 6 and 7th.

Barbara MacMullan moved to accept the rate case update. Everett Shorey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Barbara MacMullan moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bill Penn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

No action was taken on the net metering tariff.

APPROVED 4/4/2020

POSTED 4/6/2020