

Block Island Utility District
June 11, 2020
11:00 AM

HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 AND TOWN OF NEW SHOREHAM
EMERGENCY ORDER

Minutes

Participating BOD Members Present via ZOOM: Barbara MacMullan, Bill Penn, Everett Shorey and Mary Jane Balsler. Elliot Taubman joined at 11:26 AM.

Also Present: President Jeffery Wright, Chris Warfel and a representative from the BI Times.

Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

1. Public Input

- Chris Warfel made public comment requesting access to the Zoom recordings of the BIUD BOD meetings, particularly the May meeting. Jeffery Wright explained that they were recorded but not posted and he could forward them if requested.

2. Commissioner's Report

- Chair Barbara MacMullan reported that she had participated in a Zoom meeting with RI-OER with Jeffery Wright. The meeting was an introduction to the Governor's recent executive order requiring RI be 100% renewable by 2030. She reported that RI-OER would be hosting more meetings in the fall to discuss strategies to get there.

3. Approve Minutes from the May 11, 2020 and June 13, 2020 Regular Meetings

- Chair Barbara MacMullan moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 11, 2020 and June 13, 2020 as presented. Bill Penn seconded the motion and the motion pass unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Bill Penn reported that he has reviewed the May, 2020 disbursements and all was in accordance with the BIUD financial policies and procedures.
- Treasurer Bill Penn presented the financials for the period ending May 31, 2020, on record.
- Jeffery Wright reported that June sales were better than expected and despite July starting slow, sales were improving due to the heat.
- Chair Barbara MacMullan moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mary Jane Balsler seconded the motion and the motion pass unanimously.

5. President's Report

- President Jeffery Wright presented the current impacts of the COVID19 pandemic on operations and financial projections.
- Jeffery Wright reported that the CFC Letter of Credit for ISO-NE financial assurance is up for renewal and is not ready for this meeting so a meeting will be requested for Thursday July 17th so the BOD can approve the Certificate of Incumbency and Resolution.

- Jeffery Wright reported that the net metering statute amendment had been passed by the Senate Committee and not yet by the House. He reported that when it was fully approved that he would publish a notice in the BI Times announcing a new tariff filing and that the filing would be submitted to the RI-PUC. Chris Warfel voiced his concern that there be more opportunity for public input. Jeffery Wright described the timeline of the BIUD approval of the proposed tariff and explained that the PUC would hold a public hearing. Chair Barbara MacMullan requested that the proposal be discussed in a BIUD meeting again prior to filing. Everett Shorey and Elliot Taubman also requested that Chris Warfel put his concerns and comments in writing.
- Jeffery Wright reported that BIUD is still waiting for a meeting with RI-DEM about the timing of the soil mitigation project.
- Chair Barbara MacMullan moved to accept the President's Report. Mary Jane Balser seconded the motion and the motion pass unanimously.

6. Review and Act Upon Financial Policy Revision

- Jeffery Wright presented a proposed addition to the BIUD Financial Policy and Procedure to include more detail pertaining to procurement, on record.
- Elliot Taubman moved to approve the proposed changes to the policy. Mary Jane Balser seconded the motion and the motion pass unanimously.

7. Review and Act on Employee Housing Project

- A discussion was had regarding the offer from the Block Island Solar Initiative for a free solar array and all electric appliances. Legal advice was requested before a decision was made on acceptance.
- It was recommended that two groups be formed; an RFP committee (Elliot, Everett and Jeff) and a second to work on the house design (Bill, Barbara and Mary Jane).
- A motion was made by Barbara MacMullan to seek a legal opinion on the acceptance of accepting gifts. Bill Penn seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- Mary Jane Balser made the motion to create a RFP committee comprised of Elliot Taubamn, Everett Shorey and Jeff Wright. The motion was seconded by Elliot Taubman and was approved unanimously.

Mary Jane Balser moved to enter closed session to discuss agenda items 8 and 9. The motion was seconded by Elliot Taubman and passed unanimously.

8) Gravel Pit Solar PPA - pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (7) which is "A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds, which includes any investment plan or matter related thereto, where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest."

9) Litigation pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(2) (Litigation: Howell Conant v. Block Island Power Company)

The BOD came out of executive session at 1:15 PM and announced it had authorized President Jeffery Wright to execute the Gravel Pit Solar PPA.

Barbara MacMullan moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 PM, seconded by Bill Penn. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED: 11/21/2020
POSTED: 11/23/2020