

Block Island Utility District
November 21, 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: Everett Shorey, Bill Penn, Elliot Taubman and Mary Jane Balser (who joined at 1PM).

Absent: Barbara MacMullan

Also Present: President Jeffery Wright and Chris Warfel.

Vice-Chair Everett Shorey called the meeting to order promptly at 11:00 AM.

1. Public Input

- There was no public input.

2. Commissioner's Report

- Vice-Chair Everett Shorey extended the BOD's condolences to Bill Penn who lost his wife Sally recently. He then asked for a moment of silence in Sally's memory.
- Everett asked that the Board extend their thanks to the BIUD employees who had worked through the pandemic without any negative effect on BIUD operations and specifically called out BIUD Office Manager Tracy Fredericks for her work as rescue captain and her efforts given to the public COVID-19 testing. All BOD members commended the employees.

3. Approve Meeting Minutes from the July 11, July 17 and October 10, 2020 meetings.

- Bill Penn moved to approve all three sets of meeting minutes as presented. Elliot Taubman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Receive and Act on Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Bill Penn presented the YTD financials through 9/31/2020.
- Discussion included how the rate design changes affected the AR-Elect and Unbilled Revenue balances on the balance sheet.
- A question was asked about the Accounts Payable Trade. President Jeff Wright informed the BOD that he would research this with David Bebyn and email the BOD the answer (was due to a backlog off unbilled National Grid expenses).
- Elliot Taubman moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Bill Penn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Receive a BI Solar Initiative Update

- At 12:19 PM Tony Pappas joined the meeting and provided an update on the BI Solar Initiative's programs and progress. His presentation included updates on solar installs, mini-split HVAC offerings and the electric vehicle (EV) grants.
- Chris Warfel made several comments denouncing the programs.

6. President's Update

- President Jeffery Wright presented his report (on record) which included updates on sales, the TNS broadband project, efficiency plan, cell tower upgrade, a member complaint re: the system charge tariff and the SO/Transmission overcollections.
- Discussion was had regarding the complaint brought forth by Jeff Cowles which argued that the application of the system charge was counter to promoting renewable energy and asked that we address his concerns. After a lengthy discussion, the members present agreed with Mr. Cowles and recommended that we address it (exempting net metering customers from being subject to the charge) in our new net metering tariff when filed after the statute is changed.
- Discussion was had regarding the SO/Transmission overcollections. Mr. Wright explained that he and David Bebyn would be preparing a status report to be filed with the PUC. Prior to filing the status report, he and Mr. Bebyn would be having informal discussions with DPUC staff on to best handle the overcollection, recognizing that there were many options and all options would be explored with the DPUC staff. After a lengthy discussion, Bill Penn moved to recommend to the DPUC that we use the overcollections from the summer period to fund a restricted SO/Transmission reserve and adjust the rate going forward. Elliot Taubman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Bill Penn moved to accept the President's Report. Elliot Taubman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Pole Mount Solar Panel Pilot Program

- President Jeffery Wright presented a pilot program of ten pole mount solar installations to be used as a test of wind tolerance and aesthetics. The pilot would use panels and mounts donated by the BI Solar Initiative. BIUD would install them using their internal labor.
- He cited a program implemented by PSEG in New Jersey as an example and showed photos of what the panels would look like.
- A discussion was had regarding HDC restrictions in the historic district that would prevent them from being installed at the power company. Mr. Wright suggested that they would be better located on the ends of circuits but wanted to be sure to put them in places to spur a public response.
- Elliot Taubman moved to approve the pilot program. Mary Jane seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Review and Act Upon 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets

- President Jeffery Wright presented the proposed 2021 operating and capital budgets stressing that both would be level funded compared to 2020.
- He acknowledged other capital projects that would be funded by debt through CFC (spare transformer, voltage conversion and employee housing) and explained that he would seek individual approvals for those projects as they were further developed.

- Mr. Wright asked the BOD for approval of the presented operating budget of \$5,525,999 and capital budget of \$400,000.
- Treasurer Bill Penn moved to approve both budgets as presented. Elliot Taubman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Elliot Taubman moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 PM, seconded by Bill Penn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: January 23, 2021

POSTED: February 23, 2021