

**Block Island Utility District
Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2021**

Board Members: Barbara MacMullan, Maryjane Balsler, Tom Risom, John Warfel and Elliot Taubman

Also Present: President Jeff Wright, Tracy Fredericks, Chris Warfel, David Lewis, Wade Ortell

Board Chair, Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 11:03am.

1. Public Input

Chris Warfel asked if BIUD could investigate possible affordable housing.

Chris Warfel asked if BIUD could do a net meter inventory, considering decommissioned projects.

Chris Warfel made several comments regarding the approval process for solar projects, asking for a separate process than the town.

Barbara reminded the group that we came up with an approval process that would be separate from the Town's. Tom added that the town needs Jeff's approval first, and it must ensure the system is not exporting.

2. Correspondence

Chris Warfel email-submitted, in packet.

3. Commissioner's Report

Barbara proposed that BIUD change the enabling legislation to allow the board to be compensated for attending trainings and meeting, similar to Pascoag's legislation.

Tom Risom made a motion to incorporate the lobby to include language similar to Pascoag 45-58-7. The motion was seconded by Maryjane Balsler. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Review and Act upon Mayforth Group Proposal for Lobbying Services

Barbara explained that last year the board hired Mayforth Group to help with the net metering legislation. They were helpful in keeping the board aware of other bills that may affect the BIUD. MacMullan suggested we continue to use them.

Elliot Taubman supported this recommendation but suggested we use District, not Company in the contract wording and add language to include Mayforth helping BIUD track other legislation that could affect BIUD.

Elliot Taubman made a motion to renew the Mayforth Group contract subject to his comments. The motion was seconded by Barbara MacMullan. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2021, Annual Meeting and October 26, 2021, meeting

Barbara MacMullan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 28, 2021 Annual Meeting and the October 26, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by MaryJane Balser. The motion passed unanimously.

6. President's report

- a. Cable Outage-National Grid is still scheduling and cancelling the project

The accumulated cost is a concern, and as the weather gets colder the fuel costs will increase. Jeff is going to contact the PUC if necessary.

- b. Battery Storage- Jeff reported that he wants to keep moving forward with this project and that he will schedule a zoom meeting with Craig Kieny.

- c. Review of Net Metering Docket Procedural Schedule – Jeff reported that a procedural schedule was set – included in packet. He went on to explain BIUD's interpretation of Section 12 definition of net metering as regarding zero export is defined as net metering.

Chris Warfel asked the board to look at the statutes, he disagrees with this definition.

- d. Car Charger- Jeff met with Tony Pappas, Will Young and Wade Ortel. Jeff will work on helping the group procure a level 3 charger to be installed at BIUD. They are aiming to have the project completed for next summer. Tom Risom offered to investigate any zoning issues that may be associated with installing the charger.

7. Review and Act upon 2022 Operating Budget

Jeffery Wright presented the 2022 O&M Budget and further explained the relationship with capital, funding it with cash to improve out equity. Once we reach 40% we can work on lowering out rates by increasing our borrowing and using less cash to fund the capital budget.

The 2022 budget is flat compared to last year, funded with current rates.

A motion was made by Barbara MacMullan to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Tom Risom. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Review and Act upon BIUD 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

Jeff Wright said he will look into scheduling a planning session with CFC in February or March. He asked the board to look over the plan and give him feedback. A lengthy and productive discussion ensued.

Barbara MacMullan asked the board to think about incorporating climate change, sea level rise, and other environmental laws that may affect operations and also suggested we develop a community and school level and training program to hire new employees.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Elliot Taubman, seconded by Tom Risom. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Approved 12/18/21
Posted 12/22/21