

# Block Island Utility District

Regular Meeting of Board of Commissioners

Thursday, February 24, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Location: Block Island Utility District 100 Ocean Ave

In attendance: Barbara MacMullan, Board Chair, Tom Risom, Treasurer, John Warfel, Secretary, Elliot Taubman  
Jeffrey Wright, President, Tracy Fredericks, Rene Myer.

Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

## 1. **Public Input**

John Warfel spoke with the office of energy, he suggested we talk with them at some point. There may be USDA grants available for us since we are the only town in the state considered "rural".

Jeff Wright said The Island Institute has some funding available and the office of energy, has a \$250,000 grant. Barbara said she will speak with Heidi Tarbox about investigating these opportunities.

John Warfel suggested we investigate renting small car chargers.

## 2. **Correspondence**

none

## 3. **Commissioner's Report**

none

## 4. **Approve Regular Meeting Minutes: January 27, 2022**

Barbara asked that the minutes be amended, item #2, the last sentence changed to:  
Jeff said he will talk with other vendors

Tom made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 27, 2022, the

motion was seconded by John Warfel, the motion passed unanimously.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Tom reviewed the Year-End Financial Statements.
- b. Tom reported that he met with Jeff to review the credit card statements, payroll summary and check run report and all was in compliance with the BIUD financial policies.

Jeff reported that cash reserves down due to voltage conversion, but we are in good financial standing.

Jeff pointed out - Land valuation increased due to the value of the company increasing as a result of the contingent liability settlement of \$300,000. Also, Distribution was up significantly due to work we have done over the past year.

Jeff added that kWh sales are up (pg. 12.)

c. Audit Update

Audit is on track for presentation to the board.

Rooftop solar, (pg 10.) Transfer funds to capital fund decommission 5%-10% maintenance and decommissioning funds. It was agreed on 10%

Elliott made a motion to take 10% for a decommissioning and maintenance fund. The motion was seconded by Tom. Motion approved unanimously.

Barbara made motion to approve treasurers report, the motion was seconded by John, the motion was approved unanimously.

**6. Review and Act Upon NRUCFC \$670K Annual Revolving Line of Credit Renewal**

Tom Risom made a motion to approve the \$670,000 CFC line of credit resolution and certificate of incumbency (included in the BOD packet). The motion was seconded by Barbara MacMullan. The motion passed unanimously.

## 7. **Appoint NRECA Annual Meeting Voting Delegate and Alternate**

Jeff described the purpose of having a RI voting delegate participate in the NRECA annual meeting and further explained that Barbara was the most recent voting delegate for the NRECA Region 1 meeting in the fall and that it would make sense for Barbara to be the voting delegate for the annual meeting.

John made a motion to appoint Barbara as the delegate and Eliot as the alternate. motion was seconded by Tom, motion passed unanimously.

## 8. **President's Report**

### a. Power Supply and Transmission Rate Filing Update

Jeff reported that next month the filing after March meeting-will bring new rates to the board.

### b. Efficiency Plan and Rate Adjustment Update

There are no proposed changes to the plan, except for a rate adjustment based on unspent carry over funds.

### c. Voltage Conversion Update

Jeff reported that we are making good progress, no material concerns, more work in the next few months, planning 2 outages in the next few months. Looking at last week of April for actual conversion, this will be dependent on National Grid.

We are hoping to get line loss down to 6%-7%

The project is still on budget

### d. Utility-Scale Battery Analysis

ENE is going to facilitate a utility scale battery RFP process for all of their members.

### e. Employee Housing Update

Town has appraisal for the corner lot and will soon share the value and their offer with us.

### f. Net Metering (Docket 5192) Update

The PUC has not yet set an open meeting to approve the net metering tariff, we anticipate being on the next meeting.

### g. National Grid Cable Reburial Update

They are planning on trying again this April.

- h. Strategic Planning with CFC  
Committed through June, may come back out in the fall.

Jeff commented that we have done all the Sertex work.

Motion to approve the President's report made by Barbara MacMullan, seconded by Tom Risom, motion passed unanimously.

## 9. **Legislative Update**

- a. S2277 - BIUD Board of Commissioners Reimbursement of Expenses changes in packet- will put in bylaws if passed. Barbara asked to talk about bylaws at the next meeting.
- b. S2276 - Time of Use Rate Plans  
S2276 mandates every utility come up with a time of use plan, the deadline is June. There is question about how it gets implemented. Jeff will follow the bill with the help of the Mayforth Group.
- c. S2274 — Rhode Island Renewable Portfolio Standard — 100% by 2030  
Have Mike looking into this, may not apply to us. Modifies the current bill to a new deadline. Jeff will follow the bill with the help of the Mayforth Group.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barbara MacMullan, the motion was seconded by Tom Risom, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Approved: March 24, 2022

Posted: April 18, 2022