

Block Island Utility District
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 20, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

THE MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON
AT THE HARBOR CHURCH

Participating BOD Members present: Barbara MacMullan, Tom Risom, Mary Jane Balsler, John Warfel, Eliot Taubman

Others present: Jeff Wright, Tracy Fredericks, David Lewis, and Rene Meyers.

Board Chair Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

1. Public Input

- There was no public input.

2. Commissioner's Report

- Board Chair Barbara MacMullan had nothing to report.

3. Approve Meeting Minutes: July 28, 2022, August 27, 2022, September 19, 2022, September 22, 2022, October 12/13, 2022, November 1, 2022, and December 13, 2022.

- Tom Risom made a motion to approve all meeting minutes, seconded by John Warfel, motion passed unanimously.

4. President's Update

i. ISO-NE 2023 Winter Reliability Concerns

- Jeff reported that for the first time in his career, the ISO is warning of rolling blackouts. The ISO held a meeting run by emergency management. RI Energy went through the rolling blackout rules, OP-7 event, never done this before. The good news for us (Block Island), none of our load will be shed. BI is not included. If OP -7 doesn't work, we all go down. There is a concern, the weather is going to drive everything. We will have some advance notice on this, but we need to use less energy.
- Eliot Taubman commented that we should investigate a grant to have the wind turbines power the island when the cable goes down. Jeff reported that this would require a 300k engineering study. Jeff said he had suggested this in the initial meetings before the turbines were turned on. Jeff said he would reach out to Orsted and RI Energy to see if they were willing to study this.

ii. Cable Outage "What-ifs" and Lessons Learned

- Jeff reported that we had done some unrelated testing in the morning and around 2:00 pm the power went out. We called RI Energy to find out that we tripped. We started the generators and restored power to the island. RI Energy said they didn't know what the issue was. They eventually reported that they thought the cable was down 5 miles out to sea. We realized that the inevitable could happen. If the cable goes down, we are back to the generators. We would have to stop all the capital work and focus on keeping the generators going. Cost, and

fuel are expensive, need to bring trucks over at \$60,000 per truck. There was a big economic concern, possibly \$1 per kWh.

- Jeff reported that he called ENE, and discussed reselling the energy we already purchased to help pay for the fuel. We burned 22,000 gallons, we were off for 22 hrs. We need to consider this if we ever have a cable outage.
- Coordination with RI Energy was great, had crews come over to the island later that day and asked for our help. This was vastly different from working with National Grid. Our contractors worked with them throughout the night to help identify where the fault may be. They reported at 2:00 am that it wasn't the cable, eventually, the fault was found to be a broken insulator near the substation.
- Jeff reported that a high impedance fault can trick the relays, which is why it was mistakenly reported to be a cable fault 5 miles out. RI Energy has agreed to meet to discuss any repairs or replacements necessary.
- Barbara asked if there is a type of insurance we could purchase if this type of fault happens again.
- Jeff reported that it is important that the public understand what the consequences could be if there is a cable fault. There will be substantial costs associated with running the generators, which could stop other work being done to the infrastructure.
- David Lewis asked for the BIUD BOD to set a policy on an OP-7 type process. Jeff reported that we should have a plan in place where we could shut off certain areas of the island if necessary. Jeff suggested this should be a priority and added to the Strategic Plan. This emergency plan should also be made public.
- There was discussion suggesting that we need to have two types of Strategic Plans, one focusing on the cost associated with the cable outage, and another focusing on the inability to supply power to the island, in the event the cable goes down and there is a storm preventing the boats from running for several days, preventing adequate fuel deliveries.
- There was discussion regarding adding the FAC tariff to the bills when we go on generation. Jeff reported that we can do this, but we have to get this approved.
- There was a discussion encouraging members to have backup generation. EVs are not currently set up for this type of backup generation.

iii. Power Supply Sub-Committee Discussion

- Jeff began a discussion pertaining to integrating more renewables into the BIUD portfolio. He explained that we went through a strategic plan and are creating a subcommittee to work on power supply and develop community-supported strategies.
- Barbara suggested John and Barbara be the subcommittee for now, Eliot will be the backup. May add more as they move forward.
- Jeff reported that it was suggested to get some members of the community involved and to work on the community survey.

Mary Jane made a motion to have Barbara and John serve as the power supply sub-committee, motion was seconded by Tom Risom, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Review and Act Upon the BIUD 2023 Strategic Plan

- Barbara made a motion to approve the 2023 Strategic Plan, seconded by John, the motion was passed unanimously.

6. Review and Act Upon 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets

- Motion was made to approve the 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets, motion was seconded by Tom, the motion was passed unanimously.

7. Discuss a complaint filed re: Fire at the Gothic Inn on October 10, 2019. *

At 5:25 PM, Barbara made a motion to go into closed session, the motion was seconded by John, the motion was passed unanimously.

At 5:40PM, Barbara made a motion to come out of closed session and close the minutes, motion was seconded by Tom, the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Tom, motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:43pm.

APPROVED JANUARY 26, 2023