

Meeting Minutes
Block Island Utility District
Regular Meeting of Board of Commissioners
Thursday, July 28, 2022 @ 4:00 PM
THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE BIUD POWER PLANT

In attendance: Barbara MacMullan, Maryjane Balser, Tom Risom, Elliott Taubman, John Warfel, Jeff Wright, Tracy Fredericks, David Lewis, Wade Ortel, Renee Meyer, Steve Record, Peter Kinoy, and Cindy Davis.

Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

1. Public Input

Steve Record reported that at the site meeting at Lipscomb property he expressed concern on the level of payback, saying he won't see return on his solar investment in his lifetime. Steve added that he heard Jeff Wright said that the BIUD doesn't want residential solar. Jeff stated that is incorrect, the goal is to get to 100% renewable as a company.

Jeff added that board decisions must be fair to all the BIUD members and that played a large role in the development of the new solar tariff.

There was a discussion on avoided cost. Steve asked if the board could adjust the avoided cost? Jeff answered that the avoided cost was a calculation based on actual costs. He added that if the BOD wanted to, they could incentivize solar by adding a "solar adder" but that would be counter to BIUD's goals not supporting cross subsidies amongst its members.

John Warfel said as a new board member, not on the BOD when it was passed, he is not in favor of the tariff.

David Lewis added that it is State law that National Grid, buy back power at retail and charging wholesale for consumption. He felt the board has formed a rational program.

Peter Kinoy said that he felt solar has always been prohibitive; the board has the ability to make changes that effect climate change. He asks the board consider making solar more attractive to homeowners.

2. Commissioner's Report

Barbara said the board needs to want schedule a separate meeting to have a performance report for Jeff Wright, and suggested the date be set in September.

3. Approve Board Meeting Minutes (3/29/22, 4/5/22, 4/12/22, 4/15/22, 4/22/22, 4/28/22, 6/8/22 and 6/23/22)

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

4. Appoint BIUD Voting Delegates for Region 1 CFC and NRECA Meetings

Jeff encouraged BOD members to attend, and added both meetings are in Indianapolis on September 7, 8 2022. Elliott and Tom volunteered to attend.

Barbara made a motion to have Tom Risom be the voting delegate and Elliot as the alternate, the motion was seconded by MaryJane, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Tom reported that had reviewed some of the billables, and will defer most of the rest of his report to the next meeting. Has gone over everything with Jeff and will provide a more complete report in the next meeting.

Barbara MacMullan made a motion to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by MaryJane Balser. The motion passed unanimously.

6. President's Report

- Jeff reported on the current ISO-NE wholesale power supply market and commented that he was glad we secured the additional power supply when we did. The complete details of the transactions is on record. He also reported that BIUD did not see the increase in peak in 2022 that we have seen in the past. Believe it is due to the voltage conversion. 5.294 peak same as last year.

Systems losses are down in June – he expects we should see some real savings in losses with the next billing.

- Champlin's Marina interconnection-meeting with them to discuss their new interconnection.

Currently, they are using approximately 550 gallons per day.

- He also reported that the downstairs apartment in the office building should be done by the end of August

- He reported that the electric school bus should arrive mid-august.

Barbara MacMullan made a motion to approve the president's report and was seconded by Tom Risom. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Review and Act Upon Annual Meeting Agenda

The meeting will be held on August 27th at the power plant. It will be a meeting like past meetings, with a guest speaker, Mike Oppenheimer who will talk about electricity supply specific to Block Island in relation to climate change. We also reported that some members of the efficiency team will also be present.

8. Review and Act Upon Utility Scale Storage Battery RFP Process, Fractal Proposal and BI Solar Initiative Contribution

Jeff reported that he had recently met with the solar Initiative who asked what they could do for BIUD. He suggested funding for an all-EV bucket truck and some financial assistance with a utility-scale battery project.

After a productive meeting, the Solar Initiative committed to funding 75% of an RFP process so we can do a formal RFP from battery vendors from around the country. Jeff contacted ENE, suggested we

contact fractal, got a proposal, and gave it to the Solar Initiative, the cost is \$38,700, of which the SI will pay \$28,200. They have also committed \$250,000 match money to apply for the “Non Wires” grant from ENE. Jeff received the application.

Jeff requested that the BOD authorize him to go out and fund the BIUD 23% share of the RFP process cost and accept the donation from the BISI to get Fractal to work on it. Once the proposals are received he will come back to the board and the BISI for additional approvals.

Barbara MacMullan made a motion to authorize the expense, and was seconded by MaryJane Balser. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Review and Act Upon BI Solar Initiative Donation of EV Bucket Truck

Jeff-SI has offered to purchase an EV bucket truck, worth approximately \$619,000. This will be the 8th in the country. Terex is the company that manufactures the truck, we have spoken with the vendor no concerns. SI Board still finalizing the details.

Two Level II chargers will be required, one for the boom the other for truck. The truck could be here by March 2023.

Evan Carey added that this truck is a huge benefit to all the ratepayers and will save him from having to climb numerous poles that we cannot reach with our current trucks.

Eliot Taubman made a motion to accept the donation from the SI to purchase an EV Bucket Truck, the motion was seconded by John Warfel, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Review and Act Upon Legacy Net Metering Tariff

Jeff explained the changes to the net metering tariff that had been in place at least since 2017. He added that a subcommittee of John Warfel and Barbara MacMullan has helped him vet the changes. He also reported that the filing deadline had been extended by three weeks. The revised tariff is on record and was included in the BOD materials for everyone’s review.

John Warfel suggested making an additional title change from dual meter tariff to legacy meter tariff.

Eliott Taubman made a motion to approve the proposed standard for grandfathered systems, motion seconded by Tom Risom, the motion was approved unanimously.

Steve record made some comments on the tariff, suggesting that the new tariff is not net metering. He also pointed out a typo in line 7; should be the applicable rate. Additionally, he suggested we delete the second sentence on page 3 as it is duplicative. Jeff noted these suggestions.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barbara MacMullan seconded by MaryJane Balser. The motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.

APPROVED: DECEMBER 20, 2022