

Block Island Utility District Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners
Thursday, February 23, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE HARBOR CHURCH

Board Members Present: Barbara MacMullan, Tom Risom, Mary Jane Balsler, John Warfel, Elliot Taubman,

Others Present: Jeffery Wright, Tracy Fredericks and members Ray Torrey, Molly O'Neill, Keith Stover, Cindy Davis, Evan Carey, Tom Durden, and Rene Meyer.

Board Chair Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

1. Public Input

There was no public input.

Barbara made a motion to move agenda Item 8 to up to Item 2 to accommodate some members that may have to leave the meeting early. The motion was seconded by John, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Review and Approve NRUCFC \$1M Line of Credit, \$500K Emergency Fuel/Power Supply Line of Credit and a \$325K Letter of Credit issued to ISO-NE for Financial Assurance

Jeff reported on the meeting with Board Treasurer Tom Risom and CFC's Jim Meiers regarding the operating line of credit with CFC and grant opportunities. Jim suggested CFC could issue a restricted, emergency line of credit only for fuel and power supply emergencies which would free up our operating line of credit in the event of a long term cable failure.

Barbara asked for input from the board on how much should we have for operating expenses. A lengthy discussion was had.

Mary Jane made a motion to authorize \$900k for a line of credit for operating expenses, \$325k letter of credit, and \$500k restricted, emergency line of credit solely for fuel supply emergencies. The motion was seconded by Barbara and was passed unanimously.

3. Commissioner's Report

There was no report given.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes: January 26, 2023,

Secretary John Warfel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Tom Risom and was passed 4-0. Elliot Taubman abstained.

5. Review Strategic Plan Measures

Jeff reported that not much has changed, stating that everything else is on track.

President Jeffery M. Wright reported that the committee met and that the details of the meeting are included in the board packet. Jeff reported that Craig Kieny from ISO Analytics has been hired to help with the process.

Barbara suggested we hold another meeting only on the topic of Power Supply. The meeting will be scheduled in March.

Jeff reported that he plans to use NRECA to conduct a member survey in which some questions will be asked regarding power supply.

6. Treasurer's Report

Tom reported he received and reviewed the January Treasurer's Report and there were no discrepancies to report.

Tom referred to the board packet for details, included in the BOD packet.

7. President's Update

Jeff reported on the progress of the voltage conversion and discussed the NRECA consortium and DOE grid infrastructure grant that we are applying for. This grant, which is a 50/50% cost share would provide BIUD will \$5M over the next five years to finish the pole replacements.

A discussion was had about applying for a DOE grant for technical assistance. The assistance would include help with utility scale storage, demand control, and energy resilience.

Jeff reported on another grant that RI-OER is submitting to DOE. They will submit the application to DOE for a grid resiliency grant with the proceeds being allocated to all RI utilities based on load share. Jeff will report out the details when he has the information.

Jeff reported the car charger has arrived; the transformers have arrived. Hopefully everything will be installed in April.

9. Review and Approve Retail Choice Permanent Exemption Legislative Amendments

Board Chair Barbara MacMullan introduced the topic of a permanent retail choice exemption as was discussed in previous meetings. Barbara reported that we are currently exempt from retail choice through PUC order but asking for a permanent exemption would eliminate legal and other expenses to refile periodically as necessary. There were several utility district members present and despite trying to solicit questions from the group, there were no questions or opposition.

Barbara made the motion to approve the retail choice permanent exemption legislative amendments. The motion was seconded by Tom and the motion passed unanimously without discussion.

10. Review and Discuss Energy New England's EV Charger, Home Storage, Load Management Program and how it can work for Block Island I

Jeff reported this is for informational purposes only. ENE is offering this as a service for each of their clients. The program would give participating utilities demand response capabilities to control in home (appliances, heating, etc) devices via WIFI.

Barbara MacMullan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 PM, Tom Risom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved on May 25, 2023