

Block Island Utility District
Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Thursday, July 27, 2023 @ 4:00pm

In attendance: Board of Directors: Barbara MacMullan, Eliot Taubman, Tom Risom.

Jeffery Wright, Tracy Fredericks, Tom Durden, Tony Pappas, David Lewis

Barbara called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM

1. Public Input - No input

2. Commissioner's Report (ETTIP Grant Update) Board Chair Barbara MacMullan reported we got the Technical Assistance grant she and John were working on. We will create a sub-committee; this is a community-based activity. We will form this committee and work with the Island Institute, the planning board, sea-level rise group.

3. Strategic Plan Update-

President Jeffery Wright reported that there are still several items that are still on track. Still, we don't want to lose sight of capital planning and getting the capital budget created, succession planning, and what to do if any critical members of our organization are suddenly gone and the subcommittee working on the benefits package.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes from the June 22, 2023, Regular Meetings

Barbara MacMullan asked that item #5 of the Treasurer's report we change the word restraints to constraints.

A motion was made by Barbara MacMullan, seconded by Tom Risom, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Tom Risom reported we are all caught up with all the financials from May, June and July.

Jeff Wright reported on the second quarter report; net utility plant has greatly increased in the last year. Current assets are up a couple \$100,000, deferred assets and deferred liability tied to the tower's new tax requirement.

Jeff also reported that the same goes with deferred credits, long-term liabilities, and long-term CFC debt. The line of credit was drawn down, but it will get paid down by the end of the year. Total revenues are up significantly due to the new bucket truck.

Additionally, he noted that we will be doing a cost-of-service study, which could result in a rate change. This is necessary because the cost of everything has increased due to inflation. Everything is posted on the website.

6. President's Report

President Jeffery Wright reported on the following:

- i. 2023 Member Satisfaction Survey Update-we did a mailing and posted it to the BIBB.
- ii. 2023 Sales/Operational Update: sales are on par with last year. Page 20 system losses are down to about 11%. This does cover about 2/3% of our loan for the voltage conversion.
- iii. DOE Grant (Resiliency/Pole Replacement) Update Jeff reported grip to grant no update, hopefully will hear soon. This would change our capital budget. We need to sit down once we get the grants and figure out the changes.
- iv. Level II Car Charger Program and BI Solar Initiative Grant-Jeff reported that the island could not sustain several more level 3 chargers. Jeff offered EV charging should be at home with back-feed capability and Wi-Fi-controlled. We need to have the ability to spread out the load. Jeff said he spoke with the Solar Initiative to help develop and fund a pilot project then we can take this to the PUC. Jeff has offered to put this program together. Jeff stressed that the utilities need to control them and know where they are to meet demand.

7. Review of the 2023 BIUD Election Schedule/Annual Meeting Planning-The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 26th at 4:00 pm. We have speakers lined up and plenty of raffle prizes. We have 7 candidates for the election; all are asked to be present and will be given a chance to introduce themselves. The keynote speaker is Chris Christensen, past NRECA president and NRUCFC Director.

8. Review and Act upon Block Island Utility District "Round-Up" (looking for alternative names) Program- We would like to call it the Small change project. Jeff suggested we have a 7-member committee of 4 members, 2 board members, and 1 employee. The committee would work on where and how the money is spent.

9. Review of BIUD Power Supply Strategy and BI Solar Initiative Grant - Jeff Wright reported we are not bound by the renewable energy standard. We have done some math, the cost to become 100% renewable isn't as expensive as we thought. State RES- (renewable energy standard) we sell the rec's. It would be to our benefit not to sell the recs. The solar initiative has offered to buy renewable attributes to bridge the gap. We could say we are 100% renewable. It would cost the ratepayers .01/kwh for the first year than a half-cent each year after. Tony offered that the donor is on board with this idea, but there are still some pieces to work

through.

10. *Review and Act Upon Hull Suburban Lease Renewal (1st Term Expires August 26, 2023)

***This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws 42-46-5(a)(5):** Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

Board Chair Barbara MacMullan moved to enter closed session, and Tom Risom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 5:55 PM, a motion to come out of closed session was made by Barbara MacMullan, seconded by Tom Risom and approved unanimously. No actions or votes were taken.

The motion to seal the minutes of the closed session was made by Barbara, and seconded by Tom. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barbara, and seconded by Tom. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.