



Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners

Thursday, April 25, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commissioners In attendance: Mary Jane Balsler, Ken Lacoste, John Warfel, Tom Risom
Absent: Barbara MacMullan

Others Present: President, Jeffery Wright, Tracy Fredericks, Tony Pappas, Don Logan, David Lewis, Tom Durden, Carlos Salinas, Everette Shorey

Vice Chair, Mary Jane Balsler called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

1. Presentation of 2023 Financial Statements and Audit by Marcum Accountants and Advisors, John Healy, Jr. and BIUD Accountant David Bebyn, CPA. -
The presentation was given via phone. See pages 3-46 of the board packet.
2. Approve the 2023 Financial Statements and Audit (ACTION REQUESTED) – Ken Lacoste made a motion to approve the 2023 Financial Statements and Audit, the motion was seconded by Tom Risom and passed unanimously.
3. Public Input - Carlos Salinas 1. Asked the board that the recordings be publicly posted. President Jeffery Wright responded that we are concerned about the sound quality, and the time commitment, but that it will be considered. Jeff added that all our board materials are available on the website. 2. A question was asked about a new project on West Beach Road. Jeff offered there is a new line extension project to a private house that was off grid.

David Lewis suggested that we should not post the audio to the website until we have the proper equipment. Also adding that BIUD's transparency regarding the website has been a priority from day one and BIUD has done a great job.

David asked about the antenna installations AT&T has been working on and do we get reimbursed for the time our employees put in. Jeff stated that we get paid the actual cost plus 10% along with a yearly rent.

4. Commissioner's Report - No report
5. Approve Board Meeting Minutes from the April 2, 2024, Regular Meeting:
Jeff noted that Barbara asked to amend a few minor typos in the minutes but that would not affect approving them.

John Warfel made a motion to approve the April 4th meeting minutes as amended, Tom Risom seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. ETIPP Grant Update – President Jeffery Wright gave an update stating there was one meeting since last month, and that John Warfel was in attendance. John said the meeting was an ETIPP Webinar for new grant applicants. There was a presentation discussing Puerto Rico and Alaska, both of which are looking for more energy-efficient solutions. The ETIPP team is working on putting together the roadmap for Block Island including identifying what areas may be available for community solar.
7. Review 2024 Strategic Plan – President Jeffery Wright said there was not a lot new to report but noted that the modified debt service is currently 2.54 %. See pages 56-57 of the board packet.
8. Treasurer’s Report and Review of Q1 2024 Financials - Tom Risom reported that the district is current with the monthly reviews of the Treasurer’s Reports and Billing Summaries.
9. President’s Report – President Jeffery Wright reports that the NRECA pole replacement grant was submitted to DOE last week.

Jeff also added that there will be some additional aesthetic upgrades at the station which will include planting 18 new trees at the station and around the substation.

10. National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) Update – President Jeffery Wright reported that he went to the NRECA board meeting last weekend and wanted to include a powerpoint presentation that further explained what NRECA does for Block Island and its other member coops. See President’s Report in board packet pages 63-87.

Carlos Salinas, asked what is their position on switching away from fossil fuels? Jeff responded that they are 100% behind it at a reasonable pace with the current technologies.

Mary Jane Balsler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ken Lacoste. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.