Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners
Thursday, March 26, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE TOWN HALL

In attendance: Board Members Barbara MacMullan, Chair, Ken Lacoste, Secretary, John O'Riordan, Secretary, Tom Risom, Treasurer.
Absent: Mary Jane Balser
Others in attendance: Jeffery Wright, President, Tracy Fredericks, James Stockman, Evan Carey, Tom Durden, Steve Corbett, David Lewis, Rene Meyer.

Ms. MacMullan made a motion to amend the agenda and to move item 6, Treasurer's Report, to item 1. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Riordan, and passed unanimously.

1. **Treasurer's Report**

   Mr. Risom reported that he is in receipt of all reports that he reviews each month, and everything is up to date. You can contact him with any questions.

   Mr. Wright noted that we finished the year with a very small margin. This indicates that we need additional funding from the rate case.

   Other points of interest:

   Pg 2. We have some unpaid bills

   - Line of credit balances are $400,000 and $150,000 for the operating line and the emergency power supply line, respectively.
     Debt ratio is 20%, which is an improvement over last year. Need to spend more money on capital or less on expenses. Goal is to increase it from $400,000 to $500,000.

   - Pg. 3 revenue is 10% higher
     Financial metrics: cash is tight; line of credit is now $400,000. $100,000 is to pay for the Payne Rd incident.

   - We spent $95,000 in overtime and equipment on the last winter storm. We are hoping to get a FEMA reimbursement.

   - Jan and Feb we experienced the highest power supply cost since 2014. Spot prices were very high due to the cold weather, and our position was fairly open, resulting in higher energy costs.

     A question was asked about the value of the land remaining the same. There is depreciation on everything else, but not land

- Mr. Wright added that the auditors have everything they need and the audit will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. MacMullan made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lacoste. The motion was approved unanimously

2. **Public Input-no input**

3. **Commissioner's Report**
    a) Power Exchange Feedback from Commissioners and Employees
    Ms. MacMullan reported that she attended the power exchange conference and found it was very helpful.
    Mr. O'Riordan also attended and noted that NRECA has an accredited program
    Mr. Risom added that the NRECA does a good job of helping BOD members and providing them with training.

4. **Review and Act Upon Utility District Annual Calendar**
The monthly meeting schedule had be set, but we had not scheduled the annual meeting. It was decided that the annual meeting will be at 5 pm on the 20th of August. Venue to be determined.

5. **Review and Act Upon Meeting Minutes: January 29, 2026**
A motion was made by Mr. O'Riordan to accept the meeting minutes motion was seconded by Ms. MacMullan, and the motion passed unanimously

6. **Review of the 2025 Strategic Plan**
A report was provided by Mr. Wright

7. **President's Report**
    a) Blizzard Review-Mr. Wright commented that the crew was fantastic. The first outage came in at 10 pm on Sunday night, and all staff remained at work until 9 a.m. the next day. This was an unprecedented event. 4 of our 6 circuits were off, and we had wires down in many locations. We got the last customer back on about 40 hours after the first outage. Additional work is still continuing, including streetlights. We have approximately $100,000 in costs that may be covered by FEMA. The equipment damage was not substantial. We have a list of repairs to make to help prevent similar issues in the future. Mr. Wright noted that he was impressed to see that we lost only one pole in the storm. In addition, he noted that we need to follow up with Verizon; they have so much retired equipment on the island, and they don't respond well. No injuries or incidents occurred during the storm.

    b) **Voltage Conversion Update**-we are back on track; we lost a full month due to the storm. We are back on West side Rd and plan to get this completed before summer. We still have Payne Rd., Mohegan Trail and west side to complete. Line losses continue to decrease.

c) **Payne Road Insurance Claim-** 18 homeowners have been paid approximately $82,000. We submitted a claim to Federated and expect to be reimbursed. After all payments are made, the total should be around $125,000.

d) **Touchstone Member Service Excellence Training**-Mr. Wright asked the board to attend this meeting on the 21st and 22nd of April.

8. **Review and Act Upon Updated Rate Year Budget for Rate Case**-(in the board packet) Mr. Wright explained we need a 14.64% rate increase, and he recommends we go with this, adding that we have not had a rate increase in over 10 years. The impact of the increase is meaningful but not overly burdensome and does not keep up with current inflation. Ms. MacMullan added that we will continue with the capital improvements. Mr. Wright added that we have also had some substantial savings. Switching to Federated insurance has been significant along with the decrease in line losses.
   Mr. Lacoste made a motion to approve the Updated Rate Year Rate Case. The motion was seconded by Mrs. MacMullan, and approved unanimously.

9. **Review and Act Upon Member Survey Process (appoint 2 commissioners as ad-hoc sub-committee**)-Mr. Wright asked for 2 volunteer commissioners to take a call with the survey group to determine the questions and get this out by the end of Spring. Mr. O'Riordan and Ms. MacMullan volunteered to work on the survey.

10. **Review and Act Upon BIUD Financial Policy and By-Laws**-Mr. Wright asked for any suggestions for changes to the documents. Mrs. MacMullan had some suggestions to cleaning up the language for election years and for annual meeting rules. Ms. MacMullan offered to look over the documents and redline them and send them to Mr. Wright for discussion at the next meeting.

11. **Update on Employee Housing Project Review**-Mr. Wright said the hearing with the division to approve the financing for the purchase of the Center Rd property is next week. The closing has been postponed due to issues with the seller and should be closing at the end of April.

    Mr. Wright added that Ms. Balser is working on phase 2, which is building townhouses on the corner lot of Beach and Ocean Avenue and she will give an update at the next meeting.

    A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. MacMullan and seconded by Mr. Lacoste. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:29pm

    This agenda item may be held in closed session pursuant to RI § 42-46-5 (a1)**:** *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.*

Individuals requesting services for the deaf and hard of hearing must call (401) 466-5851 forty-eight hours before the meeting date.

Posted: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Posted on: Secretary of State Website, BIBB, BIUD Facebook Page and Website
www.blockislandpowercompany.com

Meeting will be streamed live on Facebook at: https://facebook.com/61558448919538