



Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners

Thursday, April 23, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

In attendance: Board Members Barbara MacMullan, Chair, Mary Jane Balser, Vice Chair, Tom Risom, Treasurer, John O’Riordan, Ken Lacoste, Secretary.

Others in attendance: Jeffery Wright, Tracy Fredericks, Jim Stockman, David Lewis, Dick Martin, Evan Carey, Tom Durden, Tom Brown, Rene Meyer

Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm

1. Public Input-no input

2. Commissioners’ Report

- a) Report on Debt Hearing held on May 15, 2026.
- b) Status Update on Member Satisfaction Survey: Jeff reported that it should be sent out by May 15.
- c) Barbara gave an update on the purchase of the Flaig property on Center Rd.
- d) Barbara reported on an email correspondence from Chris Warfel on residential battery systems and virtual power plants. We will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

3. Treasurer’s Report – 2025 Audit Presentation by CBIZ CPA’s Kyle Connors and David Bebyn

Mr. Connors present the audit which was provided to the board in advance. Several questions were asked by the board and answered by Mr. Connors, Mr. Bebyn and Mr. Wright. There were a few discrepancies noticed in the report, which were corrected by Mr. Connors. The board asked that the corrections be made and that the audit be resubmitted for approval.

A new meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30th at 10 am at the Block Island Utility District office to review and approve the audit.

4. President’s Report (VERBAL)

- a) Blizzard Review - FEMA Grant Update-we have not heard anything yet; we are included in the Town’s filing.
- b) Voltage Conversion Update-we are working on converting West Side Rd. We changed numerous poles and ran a few miles of neutral wire. Before May 15, Payne, Mohegan, and West Side, and half of Coast Guard, will be converted. We have a good plan in place.
- c) PPA Opportunities (Vineyard Wind & Boott Project (Lowell, MA)-The only change is ENE Vineyard Wind. GE has threatened to walk off the project and not continue providing servicing so we need to be cautious about entering into a power contract at this time. Jeff will get more information on what is happening.

- d) Payne Road Insurance Claim & April 21/22 Federated Visit: Updated claims totals are close to 120,000. We have reviewed the entire event with Federated and they are confident that the changes we are making will ensure the error won't be repeated.
- e) Touchstone Member Service Excellence Training was held Tuesday and Wednesday April 21 and 22. Staff members said they felt the training was helpful and that it was good to have soft skills training. All agreed that the training from Touchstone was effective.
- f) Rate Case Filing-Mr. Wright reported his testimony is just about done. Mr. Bebyn and Attorney Mary Shekarchi still have some work to do, and Dave has yet to testify. Goal is to have it done by the end of the month.

5. **Review and Act Upon Resolutions** – 1) CFC Certificate of Incumbency and Resolution, and 2) Resolution authorizing Jeffery M. Wright, Barbara A. MacMullan, or Kenneth Lacoste to execute closing documents for the Center Rd. closing.

Ms. MacMullan made a motion to approve both the Certificate of Incumbency and the resolution to sign the purchase documents. Mr. Risom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Update on Employee Housing Project Review**

Ms. Balser requested the meeting to go into closed session.

Ms. MacMullan moved to go into closed session; the motion was seconded by Mr. Risom. The motion carried unanimously.

At 5:35 the closed session portion of the meeting ended and Ms. MacMullan reported that no votes were taken in closed session. Ms. MacMullan made a motion to seal the minutes, seconded by Mr. Risom. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. MacMullan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Risom. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36.

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: Monday, April 20, 2026, at 2:30 PM

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