BLOCK ISLAND
UTILITY DISTRICT
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
PO Box 518 Block Island, RI 02807

Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 2025 @ 4:00 PM
The Meeting was held at the Power Company

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

Jeffery Wright, Tracy Fredericks, Jim Stockman, Evan Carey, Dick Martin, David Lewis, Tom Durden, Scott Corbett, Ed Piccolino.

Barbara called the meeting to order at 4:02pm

1. **Public Input-**

Steve Corbett asked if we getting power from the Block Island windfarm. Jeff explained that it all goes to RI Energy. He was concerned that the BIUD website makes it sound as if it is cost affordable. We will look into updating this.

Who owns the cable? Jeff explained that Orsted owns the cable to the wind turbines. Is there a plan for the cable after the wind farm is disabled? Jeff explained that there is no limit to what we can have delivered. We cannot generate and send it back. We pay our regional transmission bill; we are charged a flat fee of $4,000/month and the daft charge $26,000 per month. The cable will still be here after the wind farm, but we can have a conversation with RI Energy about this at some point.

2. **Commissioner's Report**

Barbara welcomed John O'Riordan as our new commissioner.
Ken asked about the cell tower and asked if anything has been done in terms of engineering to make sure it is safe for the surrounding area. Jeff explained that when the tenants propose adding equipment to the tower, they need to do a structural load

analysis and submit it to us and the town is involved in the permitting process. He said he can assure that everything is up to code. We are covered both structurally and insurance wise.

3. **Election of Officers for the Utility Board of Commissioners**

Ken made a motion to reelect the officers that are currently in standing at the moment, the motion was seconded by John. The motion carried unopposed.

Barbara made a motion to nominate Ken as Secretary; the motion was seconded by Tom. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara made a motion to appoint John to the Power supply committee. The motion was seconded by Ken. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Review and Act Upon Meeting Minutes: June 26, July 24, September 30, Regular Meetings and the August 23, Annual Meeting.**

Tom made a motion to approve all of the meeting minutes with amendments. The motion was seconded by John. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Review of the 2025 Strategic Plan**

Jeff reported from a safety standpoint that we are still on track, the same is true from a financial standpoint. Member engagement needs work, he and Barbara plan to work on putting together some information for the paper.

Jeff asked Tracy about the website, Tracy offered that she is meeting with the new group in December to resume the process.
Jeff discussed the recording of the monthly meetings they are only on Facebook for 30 day and then they disappear. We have not had any complaints about this; we could look into other options.
Jeff offered that everything else is on track. He did talk with Colleen from CFC to do more strategic planning.
Barbara asked about where we would add talking with RI Energy about future cable issues.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Tom offered that all the receipts are in order.
Jeff reported that the metrics on pg. 35 are confusing. There was discussion on how to report this in a less confusing manner. Jeff suggested he and Tom will work on the format of reporting. Barbara also asked that we put the KTR report on the website.

7. **President's Report-**

Jeff reported on the voltage conversion and that our losses have been improving. Details are on file.

8. **Review and Act on the 2026 Budget (O&M and Capital) for Rate Case**

Jeff offered we presented the test year at the last meeting. We have not changed any of the information. At the last meeting we were looking at an 8.25 overall increase including the plant and distribution increase and factors in an estimate for power supply and transmission. We are looking at a 14.5% increase in plant and distribution which is half of your rate. I also have some capital information to add; we are looking for board approval today.

Questions were submitted by Chris Warfel -on file

Answers

1. more streetlights have been added
2. Demand revenue is in 2 parts kwh the plant and distribution charge and the demand charge which is based on your peak demand in July or August.
3. Miscellaneous income, total is $70,000 it came from 10 different sources, refunds, Sertex revenue, pole attachments, capital patronage from CFC is included, a refund from National Grid, they over charged us, Verizon pole replacements scrape materials and other similar items.

4. Expenses that are charged to that account, BI phone book, Chamber of Commerce, pest control, fiber connection to town, mail machine, postage, cleaning, gardening, credit cards include office phones, Verizon and AT&T, Staples etc.
5. Directors meetings annual meeting, advertising

6. Labor is not part of this,

Barbara made a motion to approve the O&M and Capital budgets as outlined here for the upcoming rate case. The motion was seconded by Tom. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom. The motion the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 PM.