

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
December 20, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on December 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Kuhl, Mandel, Olson, and Warwick.

Others present were General Manager Torud, and Staff Members Beaudette, Steines & Straw.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Safety Message

Director Mandel gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, November 29, 2023, were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #102546 through #102641 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$436,109 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$8,846. Total receipts in the office - \$1,470,235; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$201,887; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire – \$921,365; transfer of funds was made for payroll – \$103,367 and power bill paid on December 27, 2023, in the amount of \$2,048,950.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Membership List

A membership list of 56 was presented and accepted without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the Dairyland Board Meetings he attended on December 13 -14, 2023. Director Warwick reported on the safety meeting he attended on December 13, 2023. The directors reviewed the Monthly Safety Report from Denise Fox, Compliance Safety and Training Officer.

Reports

Reports listed in the board packet were reviewed for the month of November included the power bill, department statistics, fleet management and budget month-to-date.

Inventory of Work Orders

Inventory of Work Orders summarizing construction activity for the month of November in the amount of \$204,553.67 was presented for approval and included new services – \$119,145.56; change jobs - \$28,270.69; Other Work Order Projects - \$57,137.42 and 2 retirements. The Inventory of Work Orders stood approved as presented.

Manager and Staff Reports

General Manager Torud and Staff members Beaudette, Steines & Straw presented written and oral reports of their activities for the month.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 67,329.38 consumer hours off, which is 17.96% below 2022 hours of 82,065.90. Overtime year-to-date is 3,244.75 hours, which is 8.38% above 2022 hours of 2,993.75.

DPC District Meeting – Directors Attending

The DPC District Meeting will be held February 19, 2024 in Eau Claire. All directors will attend the meeting.

Annual Meeting Committee

Director Mandel gave a report to the board on the 2024 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 23, 2024 at the Barron Area Community Center (BACC).

Donation Request – Hunt Hill

The directors reviewed the request from Hunt Hill asking for a monetary donation for their Hit for the Hill Golf Scramble. Director Baker moved, and Director Mandel seconded, to donate \$1,000 to Hunt Hill for their Hit for the Hill Golf Scramble with funds to be derived from the Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – West CAP

The directors reviewed the request from West CAP asking for a donation in the amount of \$2,500 to assist in the replacement of their aging heating and cooling system in their main office. No action taken.

2024 Rate Proposal

The board reviewed the 2024 rates presented by General Manager Torud. Director Warwick moved, and Director Baker seconded, to approve the rate increases as presented for 2024. Motion carried.

2024 Budget

General Manager Torud presented a summary of the 2024 budget proposal. Director Kuhl moved, and Director Mandel seconded, to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.

Labor Committee

General Manager Torud and members of the Labor Committee reviewed the proposed updates to the IBEW Local 953 union contract. Director Kuhl moved, and Director Bol seconded, to approve the union contract as negotiated. Motion carried.

Expense reports were reviewed and approved.

Staff Dismissed

Other Business

The office is closed December 25, 2023, in observance of Christmas.

The office is closed January 1, 2024, in observance of the New Year.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Kessler, Kuhl & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Board Leadership Course on January 9, 2024.

Director Kuhl is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on January 24, 2024.

Directors Effertz, Kessler & Kuhl are scheduled to attend the Board Leadership Course on January 10, 2024.

The January Board Meeting is scheduled January 29, 2024 prior to leaving for the WECA Education and Lobby Days.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Kuhl, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend WECA Education and Lobby Days on January 29-31, 2024.

The Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for February 1, 2024.

Director Olson is scheduled to attend the Credentialed Cooperative Director course February 13, 2024.

Director Olson & Director Bol are scheduled to attend the Credentialed Cooperative Director course on February 14, 2024.

Director Mandel is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on February 15, 2024.

The DPC District Meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2024 in Eau Claire.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook & Warwick are scheduled for the WECA Financial Webinar Series on February 22, 2024.

The February Board Meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2024.

Directors Effertz and Warwick will be attending the NRECA PowerXchange March 3-6, 2024 in San Antonio, TX.

Director Kessler is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on March 14, 2024.

Directors Kessler & Mandel are scheduled to attend the Board Leadership Course on March 21, 2024.

Directors Bol & Cook are scheduled to attend Legal Updates for Directors & Employees on March 22, 2024.

The BEC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the Barron Area Community Center.

The March Board Meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.

Scott Warwick, Secretary