

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
December 23, 2024

Call to Order

The regular board meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on December 23, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Blaskowski, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel, Olson & Warwick

Others present were General Manager Torud, Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Horstman, Staff Members Beaudette, Steines & Straw.

Approval of Agenda

Director Mandel moved, Director Baker seconded, to dismiss staff prior to the 2025 Budget discussion. Motion carried. The agenda was approved as presented with the amendment.

Introduction of Employees

Spooner Lineworkers Trystin Adams, Levi Meister & Trevon Kennell were introduced to the Board.

Safety Message

Director Bol gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Special Board Meeting, December 6, 2024, were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #103826 through #103939 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$214,226 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$16,476. Total receipts in the office \$1,758,833; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,111,170; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$2,064,976; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$205,460 and the power bill was paid on 12/25/2024 in the amount of \$2,032,650.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Manager and Staff Reports

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

Write-Off Uncollectible Debt

Director Effertz moved, Director Olson seconded, to write-off the uncollectible debt in the amount of \$19,109.35. Motion carried.

### Credit Card Resolution

Director of Finance Straw reviewed the credit card resolution with the board. Director Mandel moved, Director Bol seconded, to approve the Certificate of Resolution with National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) and increase the credit card limit to \$80,000. Motion carried.

### Contract Rates

The board reviewed the 2025 contract rates presented by Director of Member Services Beaudette. Director Warwick moved, and Director Blaskowski seconded, to approve the contract rate increases as presented for 2025. Motion carried.

Staff Dismissed.

### 2025 Budget

General Manager Torud presented two options to the board regarding the 2025 Budget.

Break at 10:25 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 10:35 a.m.

After discussion, Director Kessler moved, Director Mandel seconded, to approve the \$6 Million plant investment option with a facility charge increase from \$41.00 to \$46.00 and the rate increase as presented. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 opposed.

### Membership List

A membership list of 50 was presented and approved without objection.

### Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the DPC Meeting he attended on December 18 & 19, 2024. Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel & Warwick discussed the financial webinar they attended on December 12, 2024. 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 including the power bill, department statistics, fleet management and budget month-to-date.

### Inventory of Work Orders

Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of November in the amount of \$217,828.15 was presented for approval and included new services \$82,343.98; change jobs \$40,010.28; Other Work Order Projects \$95,473.89 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

### Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 90,068.95 consumer hours off, which is 33.77% above 2023 hours of 67,329.38. Overtime year-to-date is 4,004.75 hours, which is 23.42% above 2023 hours of 3,244.75.

#### Donation Request – Lakeland Family Resource Center

The board reviewed the request from Lakeland Family Resource Center requesting sponsorship for the Tastefully Together Gala. Director Kessler moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to donate \$500 to Lakeland Family Resource Center with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

#### Donation Request – Hunt Hill Nature Center

The board reviewed the request from Hunt Hill Nature Center requesting sponsorship for the 2025 Hit for the Hill FUNdraiser. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

#### Territory Release Request

General Manager Torud reviewed the territory release request and updated the board with new information regarding the member located at 2900 S. Wisconsin Ave. in Rice Lake. Director Warwick moved to offer the three-phase line and provide power to the location but charge \$10,000. Due to lack of second, no action was taken. Director Blaskowski moved, Director Mandel seconded, to match the cost of the estimate from Rice Lake Utilities, build the three-phase line and keep the property. Motion carried.

Director Blaskowski moved, seconded by Director Warwick, to start the increase in fixed charges and rates effective April 1, 2025. Motion carried.

The director's expense accounts for the month were reviewed and approved by the board without objection.

#### Other Business:

The office will be closed on December 25, 2024 in observance of Christmas.

The office will be closed on January 1, 2025 in observance of New Year's Day.

The Final 2025 Budget approval is scheduled for January 7, 2025 and all directors will attend.

Directors Effertz, Warwick, Baker, Cook & Kessler are registered to attend the BLC course on January 8, 2025.

Directors Bol & Kessler are registered to attend the BLC course on January 9, 2025.

Directors Baker, Mandel & Warwick are registered to attend the Director's Financial Webinar on January 16, 2025.

All directors are scheduled to attend the NRECA Directors Conference via webinar January 27-28, 2025.

The January Board Meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2025.

The DPC District Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2025 at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire.

Director Blaskowski is registered to attend the CCD courses on February 11 & February 12, 2025.

Directors Effertz, Baker, Mandel & Warwick are registered to attend the BLC course on February 13, 2025.

The February Board Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025.

Director Blaskowski will attend the NRECA PowerXchange which is scheduled for March 9-12, 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The March Board Meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2025.

WECA Education & Lobby Days are scheduled for April 1-2, 2025 in Madison.

The cooperative's Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025 at the cooperative headquarters.

The NRECA Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 27-30, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

The April Board Meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

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Patricia Mandel, Secretary