

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
December 30, 2025

Call to Order

The regular board meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on December 30, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Blaskowski, Bowers, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel, Olson & Warwick.

Others present were General Manager Torud, Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Horstman, Director of Member Services Beaudette, Director of Operations Steines & Director of Finance Straw

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Safety Message

Director Baker gave a safety message.

Introduction of New Employee

New Receptionist, Eryn Boese, was introduced to the board.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, November 26, 2025, were approved as written with a correction to the October Inventory of Work Orders total from \$475,2023.87 to \$475,203.87.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #105137 through #105268 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$171,484 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$15,078. Total receipts in the office \$2,987,615; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,320,754; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,767,129; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$244,929 and the power bill was paid on 12/31/2025 in the amount of \$2,083,015.

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 a written and oral reports of their activities for the month.

Donation Request – Lakeland Family Resource Center

The board reviewed the donation request from Lakeland Family Resource Center requesting funds to assist with the cost of the 2026 Tastefully Together Gala. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

Donation Request – Benjamin's House

The board reviewed the donation request from Benjamin's House Homeless Shelter requesting funds to assist shelter and rehabilitation programs to those in need of homes. Director Kessler moved, Director Mandel seconded, to donate \$1,000 to Benjamin's House Homeless Shelter with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – Neighbor to Neighbor Washburn County

The board reviewed the donation request from Neighbor to Neighbor Washburn County requesting funds to aid in the cost of the Neighbor to Neighbor program assisting seniors and adults with disabilities in Washburn County. Director Kessler moved, Director Mandel seconded, to donate \$1,500 to Neighbor to Neighbor Washburn County with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – Loving Loic Foundation

The board reviewed the donation request from Loving Loic Foundation requesting a donation to aid in the funding research to develop a cure for pantothenate kinase-associated neurodegeneration (PKAN) gene therapy and treatments. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

2026 Budget

The board reviewed the final 2026 Budget with General Manager Torud and staff. Discussion regarding the 5% reduction in the overall 2026 Budget to include Director Travel & Training Budget. Director Kessler moved, Director Effertz seconded, to reduce the Director's travel budget to \$8,000 annually with the exception of the Directors in their first two terms to allow \$10,000 per year. Discussion. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 opposed. This will be a change to Policy No. 202 Reimbursement of Expenses and included on the January 2026 agenda for approval. Director Bowers moved, Director Kessler seconded, to approve the 2026 Budget as presented. Discussion. Motion carried.

2026 Rates

General Manager Torud reviewed the 2026 non-contract rates with the board. Director Warwick moved, Director Mandel seconded, to approve the 2026 non-contract rates as presented. Motion carried.

Director of Member Services Beaudette reviewed the 2026 contract rates with the board. Director Olson moved, Director Effertz seconded, to approve the 2026 contract rates as presented. Motion carried.

Staff Dismissed

Break at 11:15 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:22 a.m.

Membership List

A membership list of 80 was presented and approved without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker discussed the DPC Meeting he attended on December 17 & 18, 2025. Directors Baker, Blaskowski, Mandel & Warwick discussed the Director's Financial webinar they attended on December 11, 2025. The Monthly Safety Report from Denise Fox, Compliance Safety and Training Officer was available for review.

Reports

Reports listed in the board packet were available for review 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 \$182,652.23 was presented for approval and included new services \$44,720.96; change jobs \$28,955.61 Other Work Order Projects \$108,975.66 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 98,243.11 consumer hours off, which is 9.08% above 2024 hours of 90,068.95.

Overtime year-to-date is 3,446.50 hours, which is 13.94% below 2024 hours of 4,004.75.

Disposal of Cooperative Property

In accordance with Policy No. 1014, Disposal of Cooperative Property, the approved sale of the surplus cooperative item which was a 2016 Ford F-550 4WD Terex Bucket Truck was sold for \$23,750. The bid was accepted on December 18, 2025 via Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction.

In accordance with Policy No. 1014, Disposal of Cooperative Property, the approved sale of the surplus cooperative item which was a 2017 Ford F-550 4WD Terex Bucket Truck was sold for \$30,000. The bid was accepted on December 18, 2025 via Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction.

2025 Board Self-Evaluation

President Cook and the board reviewed questions as a group regarding their processes.

Director Effertz moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to approve the director's expense reports. Motion carried.

Director Olson moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Directors Baker, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel & Warwick are registered to attend the Board Leadership Course on January 7, 2026.

Directors Baker, Effertz & Warwick are registered to attend the Board Leadership Course on January 8, 2026.

Directors Blaskowski, Bowers, Cook, Kessler & Mandel are registered to attend WECA Education & Lobby Days January 26-28, 2026 in Madison.

The January Board Meeting and Jeff Secraw's retirement lunch is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Directors Blaskowski & Bowers are registered to attend the Credentialed Cooperative Director courses on February 18 & 19, 2026.

The February Board Meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026.

Directors Blaskowski and Mandel are registered to attend the Board Financial Webinar on March 19, 2026.

The March Board Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2026.

The Barron Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026.

The April Board Meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Patricia Mandel, Secretary