

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

February 1, 2024

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on February 1, 2024. 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 Effertz gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, December 20, 2024, were approved as written.

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, January 29, 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: #102642 thru #102767 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$353,424 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$20,432. Total receipts in the office - \$3,004,105; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$2,334,557; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$4,982,693; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$303,658 and the power bill was paid on 01/31/2024 in the amount of \$2,178.945.

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.

Primary Wire Discussion

Director of Operations Steines presented information to the board regarding primary wire.

Pre-Approval to 2026 Budget – Bucket Trucks

Director of Operations Steines presented information to the board regarding the purchase of bucket trucks for the 2026 Budget. Steines requested pre-approval to the 2026 budget in the amount of \$550,000 for bucket trucks. Director Effertz moved, Director Bol seconded, to pre-approve the purchase of bucket trucks as presented to the 2026 Budget. Motion carried.

Staff Dismissed

Membership List

A membership list of 69 was presented and approved without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the Dairyland Board Meetings he attended on January 24-25, 2024. Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Kessler, Kuhl & Warwick reported on the Board Leadership Course they attended on January 9, 2023. Directors Effertz and Kuhl reported on the Board Leadership Course they attended on January 10, 2023. Director Kuhl reported on the Safety Meeting he attended on January 24, 2024. Directors reported on the WECA Lobby Days they attended January 29-31, 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 December included 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 December in the amount of \$1,313,123.53 was presented for approval and included new services – \$ 134,213.36; change jobs - \$ 24,320.24; Other Work Order Projects - \$ 1,154,589.93 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 67,980.27 consumer hours off, which is 81.79% below 2023 hours of 373,279.99. Overtime year-to-date is 3,344.75 hours, which is 19.52% below 2022 hours of 4,156.25.

2023 Top Usage by Members

A list of the top 100 members was reviewed by the board.

2023 Community Support

The 2023 employee community support hours were reviewed by the board.

NRECA Legislative Conference

The NRECA Legislative Conference is to be held on April 21-24, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Motion by Director Kessler, seconded by Director Kuhl, to table the decision on attendance at the NRECA Legislative Conference and to reconsider it at the February 28, 2024 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Federated Youth Foundation (FYF)

The board reviewed the 2023 Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) Summary of Net Assets and a 5-year history and projection of the cooperative's FYF donations. Director Warwick moved, Director Effertz seconded, to increase all the \$500 donations listed to \$1,000 and to double the FFA donations to total \$2,200, as presented for 2024. Motion carried.

Donation Opportunity – OATI Rural Electric Cooperative Community Fund

The directors reviewed the OATI Rural Electric Cooperative Community Fund in which charitable organizations can be nominated for a donation. Director Mandel moved, Director Warwick seconded, to nominate Meals on Wheels through the ADRC of Barron, Rusk & Washburn Counties to be submitted for possible donation from OATI's Rural Electric Cooperative Community Fund Award Program. Motion carried. With only one county able to receive the donation nomination, the directors voted in favor of 5 to 4 for Washburn County to receive the donation nomination.

Donation Request – Chippewa County Farm Technology Days

The directors reviewed the request from Chippewa County Farm Technology Days asking for a donation in the form of a sponsorship for their event. No action was taken by the board.

Donation Request – Barron VFW Post 8338

The board reviewed the donation request from Barron VFW Post 8338 requesting funds to provide a covered handicap ADA compliant access ramp as well as a covered deck and outdoor seating at the Barron VFW. Director Kessler moved, Director Olson seconded, to donate \$750 with funds to be derived from FYF. Motion carried.

Donation Request – Barron/Chetek Hockey Association

The board reviewed the donation request from Barron/Chetek Hockey Association requesting funding to replace their dehumidification system, build an outdoor rink, and various other building maintenance projects. No action was taken by the board.

Policy No. 103 – Board of Directors Elections

The board reviewed Policy No. 103 – Board of Directors Elections. Policy review will be added to the agenda at the February 28, 2024 board meeting, suggested changes to the policy will be reviewed.

Solar PACE (Powering Affordable Clean Energy) Program

General Manager Torud presented information regarding the solar PACE (Powering Affordable Clean Energy) Program.

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

Executive Session

Other Business:

Director Olson is scheduled to attend the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Course on February 13, 2024 in Eau Claire.

Directors Bol and Olson are scheduled to attend the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Course on February 14, 2024 in Eau Claire.

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

The Board of Directors along with General Manager Torud, Director of Operations Steines, and Director of Member Services Beaudette is scheduled to attend the DPC District Meeting on February 19, 2024 in Eau Claire.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel and Warwick are scheduled to attend the Financial Webinar Series for Directors on February 22, 2024.

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

Directors Effertz & Warwick are scheduled to attend the NRECA PowerXchange from March 3-6, 2024 in San Antonio, TX.

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

Directors Kessler and Mandel are scheduled to attend the Board Leadership Course (BLC) March 21, 2024 in Eau Claire.

Directors Bol and Cook are scheduled to attend the Legal Updates for Directors and Employees March 22, 2024 in Eau Claire.

The Barron Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the BACC. March Board Meeting and All Employee & Director Service and Safety Lunch is scheduled for March 27, 2024.

The office is closed on March 29, 2024, in observance of Good Friday.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Financial Webinar Series for Directors on April 11, 2024.

The NRECA Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 21-24, 2024 in Washington D.C.

The April Board Meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2024.

The office is closed on May 27, 2024 in observance of Memorial Day.

The May Board Meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM

Scott Warwick, Secretary