

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
November 29, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on November 29, 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.

Cost of Service Study and Rate Review

Nick Nelson, Rate and Financial Consultant from Power System Engineering, Inc. (PSE) presented information to the board regarding the cost of service study and reviewed rates. Question and answer session. A completed rate study is expected to be available by the next meeting.

Safety Message

President Cook gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The board revisited the DPC Cooperative Contributions Program which allows \$1,000 to be donated within a Cooperative's service area if the requirements are met per their policy. Requests must be submitted by October 31, 2023. Donation opportunities were listed and reviewed. The DPC donation request can only be used on one entity and cannot be split between more than one recipient. Director Effertz moved, Director Mandel seconded, to use the \$1,000 from DPC Cooperative Contributions Program for the Rice Lake Marshfield Clinic Hospice program. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, October 25, 2023, were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #102416 through #102545 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$367,950 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$34,880. Total receipts in the office - \$2,666,043; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$3,078,040; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire – \$4,843,515; transfer of funds was made for payroll – \$216,372 and power bill paid on November 29, 2023, in the amount of \$1,972,689.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Membership List

A membership list of 61 was presented and accepted without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the Dairyland Board Meetings he attended on October 18 & 19, 2023. Directors discussed the WECA meeting they attended on November 8-9, 2023. Directors Effertz and Warwick reported on the safety field visits they attended on November 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 October 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 October in the amount of \$191,580.88 was presented for approval and included new services – \$74,353.19; change jobs - \$25,879.07; Other Work Order Projects - \$91,348.62 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 62,713.93 consumer hours off, which is 21.14% below 2022 hours of 79,523.08. Overtime year-to-date is 3,077.25 hours, which is 11.57% above 2022 hours of 2,758.25.

NRECA PowerXchange Meeting

The NRECA PowerXchange Meeting will be held March 3-6, 2024, in San Antonio, Texas. Directors Effertz, Kessler, and Warwick are in the rotation to attend per Policy No. 202. Directors Warwick and Effertz will attend. Director Warwick was selected as the NRECA Voting Delegate. Director Effertz will be the alternate.

Pre-Approval to the 2024 Budget – Secondary Wire

Director of Operations Steines presented information to the board regarding pre-approval to the 2024 Budget for secondary wire due to lead times. Director Effertz moved, Director Mandel seconded, to pre-approve the wire costs of \$136,200 to the 2024 Budget. Motion carried.

Matching Donations

Information regarding the 2023 matching donations by employees and directors was reviewed.

Donation Request – Lakeland Family Resource Center

The directors reviewed the request from Lakeland Family Resource Center asking for a monetary donation to provide programs and services that build on family strengths through prevention education, support, and collaboration with other resources in the community. Director Kuhl moved, and Director Effertz seconded, to donate \$1,000 to Lakeland Family Resource Center, with funds to be derived from the Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – The Salvation Army of Barron County “The Family House”

The directors reviewed the request from The Salvation Army of Barron County “The Family House” asking for a donation in the amount of \$4,000 to assist low-income individuals and families with milk coupons, school supply backpack program, and client needs at the shelter. Director Kessler moved, and Director Bol seconded, to donate \$1,000 to The Salvation Army of Barron County “The Family House” for the milk coupon program, with funds to be derived from the Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – Neighbor to Neighbor Washburn County

The directors reviewed the request from Neighbor to Neighbor Washburn County asking for a monetary donation to help with programs for seniors so they live comfortably and safely at home. Director Effertz moved and Director Bol seconded to donate \$500.00 to Neighbor to Neighbor Washburn County, with funds to be derived from the Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Write-Off Uncollectible Debt

Director Kuhl moved, Director Warwick seconded, to write-off the uncollectible debt in the amount of \$20,260.14. Motion carried.

Amended and Restate Spooner Territory Agreement

The board reviewed the Amended and Restated Service Territory Agreement with the City of Spooner. Director Olson moved to accept and sign as presented. Director Mandel seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Dismissed

2024 Preliminary Budget

The board reviewed and discussed the preliminary budget for 2024. President Cook will discuss any changes or updates to the budget with General Manager Torud.

Other Business

Director Warwick is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on December 13, 2023.

The Final Budget presentation is tentatively scheduled for December 18, 2023.

The December Board Meeting and All Employee & Director Lunch is scheduled for December 20, 2023.

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

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

A Board Leadership Course is scheduled for January 9, 2024 in Eau Claire, WI.

A Board Leadership Course is scheduled for January 10, 2024 in Eau Claire, WI.

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

The WECA Education and Lobby Days is scheduled for January 29-31, 2024.

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

Director Olson is scheduled to attend the Credentialed Cooperative Director Course February 13-14, 2024.

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

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

The NRECA PowerXchange is scheduled for March 3-6, 2024 in San Antonio, TX.

A Board Leadership Course is scheduled for March 21 in Eau Claire, WI.

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 1:08 PM

Scott Warwick, Secretary