

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
September 27, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on September 27, 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 Kuhl gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, August 30, 2023, were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #102168 through #102289 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$109,925 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$4,241. Total receipts in the office - \$2,579,984; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$1,391,286; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$3,495,927; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$219,172 and power bill paid on September 27, 2023, in the amount of \$2,518,260.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Membership List

A membership list of 59 was presented and accepted without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the Dairyland Board Meetings he attended on September 21, 2023. Directors discussed the NRECA Region 5 meeting they attended on September 12-14, 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 August 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 August in the amount of \$424,815.89 was presented for approval and included new services - \$62,628.45; change jobs - \$20,881.43; Other Work Order Projects - \$341,306.01 and 4 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 52,313.49 consumer hours off, which is 29.64% below 2022 hours of 74,348.45. Overtime year-to-date is 2,433.75 hours, which is 2.53% above 2022 hours of 2,373.75.

### Federated Youth Foundation (FYF)

The board reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) Summary of Net Assets Allocated, history of donations, and the cooperative's current year-to-date balance available.

### CoBank Sharing Success Program

The board reviewed the remaining CoBank Sharing Success Program. Matching funds are available until September 30, 2023.

### Donation Request – Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Inc

A donation request from Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Inc was reviewed by the board. After discussion the board approved the donation suggestion of \$5,000 from Barron Electric Cooperative, \$5,000 derived from Federated Youth Foundation and a request of matching funds in the amount of \$5,000 from CoBank's Sharing Success Program for a total donation to Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000 as previously presented in the 2023 budget.

### Donation Request – St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

A donation request from St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) was reviewed by the board. Director Bol moved, and Director Baker seconded, to donate \$1,000 with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation and request matching funds in the amount of \$1,000 from CoBank's Sharing Success Program for a total donation to St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team in the amount of \$2,000. Motion carried.

### Donation Request – Nature's Edge

A donation request from Nature's Edge Therapy Center was reviewed by the board. Director Kuhl moved, and Director Effertz seconded, to donate \$1,000 to Rice Lake Community Health Foundation (RLCHF) on behalf of Nature's Edge's Therapy Center to utilize matching funds from RLCHF. With funds donated from Barron Electric Cooperative to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation and request additional matching funds in the amount of \$1,000 from CoBank's Sharing Success Program for a total donation to Nature's Edge of \$2,000. Motion carried.

### Public Benefit Report

A review of the Public Benefits report was presented to the board for their information.

### Pre-Approval to 2024 Budget-Meters

Director of Operations Steines presented information to the board regarding pre-approval to the 2024 Budget for meters due to lead times. Director Kuhl moved, Director Kessler seconded, to pre-approve the meter costs of \$169,000 to the 2024 budget. Motion carried.

### Policy No. 501 – Financial Policy

General Manager Torud and Director of Finance Straw presented the updates to Policy No. 501 – Financial Policy. The Board had a lengthy discussion of the presentation after General Manager Torud and Director of Finance Straw were dismissed. Director Kuhl moved, and Director Mandel seconded to set as goal of 44% distribution equity in the next 5 years. Director Warwick moved seconded by Director Bol, moved to amend that motion to 44% over the next ten years, by January 2034. Motion to amend carried. Motion as amended carried.

Staff Dismissed

Labor Committee

General Manager Torud presented information and recommendations for the non-bargaining unit employees. Director Baker moved, seconded by Director Mandel, to approve the recommendations of General Manager Torud with an overall 7.4% increase in salaries. Motion carried.

Policy No. 202 – Reimbursement of Expenses

The Directors discussed Policy No. 202. Director Baker moved, seconded by Director Bol, to increase the director travel budget by \$1,500 for a total of \$9,000 per director per year effective January 1, 2024. Director Kuhl moved to amend the motion to increase the director travel budget by \$2,500, for a total of \$10,000 per director per year, seconded by Director Mandel. Motion to amend carried. Amended motion to increase director travel budget to \$10,000 per year, per director effective January 1, 2024 carried.

Motion to approve expenses By Director Kuhl, seconded by Director Warwick. Motion carried.

Other Business

Cooperative Month Events are scheduled for October 3, 2023 in Spooner and October 5, 2023 in Barron.

Director Bol is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on October 12, 2023.

Directors Bol, Effertz & Mandel are scheduled to attend the Board Leadership Course on October 17, 2023.

Directors Bol & Kuhl are scheduled to attend the Board Leadership Course on October 18, 2023.

The October Board Meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2023.

The WECA Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 8-9, 2023, in Eau Claire.

Directors Effertz & Warwick will participate in the Annual Safety Audit scheduled for November 13, 2023.

The office is closed November 23-24, 2023, in observance of Thanksgiving.

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 meeting adjourned at 12:37 PM

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Scott Warwick, Secretary