

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
September 25, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on September 25, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Blaskowski, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel and Olson. Warwick attended the meeting via conference call.

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

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Safety Message

Director Mandel gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, August 28, 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: #103423 through #103581 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$208,093 with no capital credit estate checks. Total receipts in the office \$2,316,485; total receipts by wire and ACH \$253,275; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$2,236,947; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$232,075 and the power bill was paid on 09/25/2024 in the amount of \$2,513,055.

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.

Pre-Approval of Wire

Director of Operations Steines presented information to the board regarding pre-approval to the 2025 Budget to purchase primary and secondary wire. Director Olson moved, Director Mandel seconded, to pre-approve the purchase of primary and secondary wire to the 2025 Budget. Motion carried.

Pre-Approval of the ROW 3-Year Contract

Director of Operations Steines presented information to the board regarding pre-approval of a 3-year ROW contract starting on January 1, 2025. Director Kessler moved, Director Effertz seconded, to pre-approve the acceptance of Zielies 3-year ROW contract without a bond. Motion carried.

Staff Dismissed.

Membership List

A membership list of 77 was presented and approved without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the DPC Meeting he attended on September 20, 2024. Director Blaskowski discussed the new director training he attended on September 13, 2024. Directors Baker, Blaskowski, Cook, Mandel & Warwick discussed the NRECA Region 5 Meeting they attended September 17 & 18, 2024. Directors Effertz discussed the Safety Meeting he attended on September 25, 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 August 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 August in the amount of \$274,137.20 was presented for approval and included new services \$57,373.73; change jobs \$23,288.52; Other Work Order Projects \$193,474.95 and 16 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 82,252.72 consumer hours off, which is 57.23% above 2023 hours of 52,313.49. Overtime year-to-date is 2,968.50 hours, which is 21.97% above 2023 hours of 2,433.75.

Public Benefits Report

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

CoBank Sharing Success Program

The board reviewed the remaining funds available for the 2024 CoBank Sharing Success program. Any donation requests are due by September 30, 2024.

Donation Request – The Salvation Army of Barron County

The board reviewed The Salvation Army of Barron County donation request. Director Effertz moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to donate \$1,000 to The Salvation Army of Barron County with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation and request \$1,000 matching funds from CoBank Sharing Success Program for a total donation of \$2,000. Director Kessler moved, Director Bol seconded, to amend the motion to increase the donation from \$1,000 to \$2,000 to The Salvation Army of Barron County with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation and increase the request of \$1,000 to \$2,000 in matching funds from CoBank Sharing Success Program for a total donation of \$4,000. Amendment to the motion carried. With no further discussion, the motion as amended to donate \$2,000 to The Salvation Army of Barron County with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation and request \$2,000 in matching funds from CoBank Sharing Success Program for a total donation of \$4,000 carried without objection.

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

The board reviewed the St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) donation request. Director Kessler moved, Director Effertz seconded, to donate \$1,500 to St. Croix Valley SART. Motion carried.

Donation Request – Nature's Edge Therapy Center

A donation request from Nature's Edge Therapy Center was reviewed by the board. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

Donation Request – Turtle Lake Food Pantry

The board reviewed the Turtle Lake Food Pantry donation request. Due to a lack of motion, no action was taken.

Policy No. 1014 – Disposal of Cooperative Property

In accordance with Policy No. 1014, Disposal of cooperative property, the approved sale of the surplus cooperative item 2014 Ford F150 XL Supercab 4WD Truck was sold for \$5,775. The bid was accepted on August 28, 2024 via the Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction.

Labor Committee

General Manager Torud presented information and recommendations for the non-bargaining unit employees. Director Kessler moved, seconded by Director Bol, to approve the recommendations of General Manager Torud with an overall increase of 4% in salaries. Motion carried.

The board scheduled a meeting to be held on December 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with General Manager Torud and Director of Finance Straw for additional information and discussion regarding the 2025 budget.

Other Business:

The Cooperative Month events are scheduled for October 8, 2024 at the Spooner Office and October 10, 2024 at Mosaic Technologies in Cameron.

Director Mandel is scheduled to attend the BLC courses on October 8 & 9, 2024.

Directors Baker, Blaskowski & Bol are scheduled to attend the CCD course on October 15, 2024.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Financial Webinar Series for Directors on October 24, 2024.

A candidate forum is scheduled for October 29, 2024 at the cooperative headquarters.

The October Board Meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2024.

The WECA Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 11-13, 2024 in Wisconsin Dells. Directors Baker, Blaskowski, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Mandel, Olson & Warwick will be attending.

The Budget Scope presentation is scheduled for November 18, 2024 and all directors will attend.

The Board Meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2024.

The office is closed on November 28 & 29, 2024 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Financial Webinar Series for Directors on December 12, 2024.

The December Board Meeting and All Employee & Director Lunch is scheduled for December 23, 2024.

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.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Patricia Mandel, Secretary