

**Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 12, 2019**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room
26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California

Board Present: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose, Mike Rourke

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Julie Catanese, Andy Lethbridge, Karen Palmer, Sarah Sheetz, Joseph Bower, Tom Walz, Carol Fall, Bob Morris, Pat Frost, Amy Gittelsohn, Jill Cox, Charlie Holthaus, Michael Blackwell and Joe Smailes.

1. President Rose called the meeting to order at 2:00.

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Rourke made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Director Gant seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose, Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. Consent Calendar

Director Rourke made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Morris seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting November 14, 2019
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting November 5, 2019
- c. Validate Bills of November, 2019
- d. Approve Financial Reports for October, 2019

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose, Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

4. Public Input

None

5. Action Items

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

None

b. Public Hearing to consider Adoption of the Trinity Public Utilities District Wildfire Mitigation Plan as prepared by Brown & Kysar, Inc. (BKI), and reviewed by Chloeta

Byron Woltersdorf, Larry Winther and Scott Lindsay of BKI and Chet Dodrill and Mark Masters of Chloeta joined the meeting via video conference. BKI provided a presentation of the Trinity Public Utilities District Wildfire Mitigation Plan (Plan), attached and incorporated herein. Chloeta, who conducted the Independent Evaluation of the Plan was available for questions.

President Rose opened the Public Hearing at 2:27 p.m.

Tom Walz, a customer who resides between Weaverville and Douglas City inquired as to how the Public Input may affect adoption of the Plan today. President Rose advised that it would be dependent on the content of the Public Comment, and noted that the Plan is a living document, which will be reviewed again prior to July 1, 2020.

Pat Frost commented that the map on Page 33 of the Draft Plan is silent to Federal Land and should be updated. He also commented that Table 7 identifying the TPUD Emergency Preparedness and Response Stakeholder List should be updated to include local agencies such as the Trinity County Resource Conservation District and the Trinity County Collaborative. He noted that while the plan overstated involvement with the local Fire Safe Council, it understated involvement with the Trinity County Collaborative, and advised that upon adoption the plan could be incorporated into the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update. He also recommended that the District participate in the Alert Wildfire Camera program.

Carol Fall inquired about the protocols identified in Section 7.2.5 entitled Public Agency and Customer Communications, sharing her experience of reaching a recorded message when phoning the District office, and stating improvements could be made in this section. Staff agreed with Ms. Fall and advised revisions in Section 7.2.5 are underway. Ms. Fall inquired as to when the replacement of expulsion fuses with non-expulsion fuses would be complete, and if that information could be addressed in the plan. Mr. Hauser advised that utilities throughout the State are replacing expulsion fuses, creating a shortage and making it difficult to estimate a timeline. Ms. Fall displayed a photograph of vegetation surrounding a pole in the Trinity Center Area, noting that there was not 10' of clearance. Mr. Hauser advised that the pole in question did not have an expulsion type fuse attached to it.

Joseph Bowers inquired what, if anything, is going to be done in the Rights-of-Way easements. Mr. Hauser advised that the District is potentially increasing the Rights-of-Way to 130' for certain spans, and recently had a meeting with interested parties to discuss. Mr. Bowers inquired if there would be a public process for the District's plans on public lands. Mr. Hauser advised there would be.

Joe Smailes, United States Forest Service District Ranger, Weaverville Station stated that he has been very impressed with the Environmental Consultant, Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen), who is involved in the potential expanded Rights-of-Way project. He advised that he was pleased to learn that Aspen would be involved in the project, and that the level of analysis provided by Aspen is very thorough.

Tom Walz commented that priority is not really addressed throughout the document, citing the non-expulsion fuses as an example. Mr. Lethbridge advised that priority is addressed in the day-to-day maintenance operations.

Director Gant thanked those who provided Public Input and agreed there were many good suggestions. She requested that the map identified by Mr. Frost be updated and suggested the Board move forward with Adoption of the Plan.

Director Cousins inquired on the timeline of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan adoption. Mr. Frost advised that there would be a meeting in January, and the District would be invited.

Director Morris thanked staff for working to get the plan in order by the January 1, 2020 deadline, and thanked the public for attending the Public Hearing and providing valuable input.

There being no further Public Comment, President Rose closed the Public Hearing at 2:45 p.m. After a brief discussion, Director Morris made a motion to adopt the Trinity Public Utilities District Wildfire Mitigation Plan as presented with proposed amendments. Director Rourke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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| Ayes: | Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose, Mike Rourke |
| Noes: | None |
| Absent: | None |
| Abstain: | None |

c. Mapwise Presentation by Andrew Hopkins and Casey Schwartz of National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC)

Andrew Hopkins and Casey Schwartz provided a PowerPoint presentation, attached and incorporated herein, on NISC's MapWise application, focusing on the District's inspection process. Information item only.

d. Accept Auditors' Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Ms. Catanese introduced Bethany Ryers from Baker, Tilly, Virchow, Krause, LLP, the District's Auditors' for Fiscal Year 2019. Ms. Ryers reviewed the Report with the Board, pages 7 and 43 of the Report were replaced, and are attached and incorporated herein. Ms. Ryers cited some of the standards required to obtain an Audit with no material weaknesses. She advised that Baker Tilly is not disclosing any material weaknesses in the FY 2019 Audit, and commended Ms. Catanese for her efforts. Ms. Ryers also cited potential future changes, including in 2020 a 457 plan may count as a fiduciary activity, and in 2021 pole contacts may be

considered a lease. Director Cousins made a motion to accept the Auditors' Draft Report for Fiscal Year 2019. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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| Ayes: | Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose, Mike Rourke |
| Noes: | None |
| Absent: | None |
| Abstain: | None |

President Rose thanked Ms. Catanese and Ms. Ryers.

e. Adopt Resolution 19-07 Amending Rate Schedule 10 – Public Discount and Amend Amount

An Amended Report was provided to the Board, attached and incorporated herein. Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board, after a brief discussion, Director Rourke made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-07 Amending Rate Schedule 10 – Public Benefit Discount to exclude the System Access Charge from the discount and reducing the discount from 25% to 20%, excluding Energy Net Customers, by the Board for Calendar Year 2020. Director Gant seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following Roll Call vote:

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| Director Cousins: | Aye |
| Director Gant: | Aye |
| Director Morris: | Aye |
| President Rose: | Aye |
| Director Rourke: | Aye |

f. Ratify No Change to Rate Schedule 16 – Project Agreement No. 1 Surcharge

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. After a brief discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to Ratify No Change to Rate Schedule 16 – Project Agreement No. 1 Surcharge. Director Gant seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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| Ayes: | Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose, Mike Rourke |
| Noes: | None |
| Absent: | None |
| Abstain: | None |

g. Approve Contract with Evergreen Job & Safety Training for Calendar Year 2020

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board, after a brief discussion, Director Gant made a motion approve the Professional Services Contract with Evergreen Job & Safety Training for a not-to-exceed cost of \$24,860.00. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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| Ayes: | Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose, Mike Rourke |
| Noes: | None |
| Absent: | None |
| Abstain: | None |

h. Award Bid Number 19-B5 – Annual Vegetation Pruning & Removal for Calendar Year 2020

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board, after a brief discussion, Director Morris made a motion to award Bid Number 19-B5 to Silver Top Tree Service, Inc., and Authorize the General Manager to execute the Contract as presented. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

i. Amend Level Billing Policy

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board, after a brief discussion, Director Gant made a motion to amend the Level Billing Policy as presented. Director Rourke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

j. Approve Agreement with Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson & Smith, State Lobbyists

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board, after a brief discussion, Director Morris made a motion to approve the agreement with Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson & Smith for a not-to-exceed cost of \$60,000 per year for Calendar Years 2020-2022. Director Gant seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

k. Election of Officers of the Trinity Public Utilities District Board for 2020

President Rose opened nominations for the President, Vice-President and Clerk offices for the 2020 calendar year. Director Morris made a motion that the Board elect Kelli Gant to serve as President, Michael Rourke to serve as Vice-President, and Alex Cousins to serve as Clerk for the 2020 calendar year. The nominees accepted the nominations. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, Clarence Rose,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

6. Reports

a. General Manager's Reports

- Land Exchange

Director Cousins advised that the Report has been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office.

- Power Outages

The Outage Summary was provided to the Board, incorporated herein by reference. Director Cousins thanked the PUD on behalf of the mill for the power restoration so quickly following the recent car into pole accident.

- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser advised that the Western Area Power Administration is moving to participate in energy imbalance markets throughout their territory. Mr. Hauser stated that he will continue to work to ensure that the District is not affected by WAPA's participation in those markets.

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Fiber

Mr. Hauser advised that he spoke with WAPA personnel at a recent meeting and is hopeful about being able to utilize a portion of WAPA's unused fiber capacity sometime in 2020.

- Right of Way Widening Project

Mr. Hauser advised that he had a meeting with WAPA and Aspen and that WAPA was very supportive of what the District would like to do relative to ROW widenings. The goal is to conduct some environmental surveying this spring.

b. Board Member Reports

President Rose submitted a Letter of Resignation to the Board of Directors dated December 12, 2019, attached and incorporated herein. Mr. Hauser read the letter to the Board. President Rose stated that he has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this organization. The Board and Staff thanked President Rose for his service. The resignation is effective February 14, 2020.

Mr. Hauser recommended that the Board follow the same timeline utilized with the resignation of previous Directors, whereby an Ad Hoc Committee is formed to review the applicants and narrow the selection. Interviews would be conducted at the January 9, 2020, Regular Meeting and an appointment made at the February 13, 2020, Regular Meeting. President Rose appointed Director Cousins and Director Morris to the Ad Hoc Committee.

c. Committee Reports

None

7. Discussion Items

a. None

8. Communications Received

a. None

9. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. California Municipal Utilities Association Capitol Day
Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento
January 27, 2020

- b. American Public Power Association Legislative Rally
The Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC
February 24-26, 2020

- c. Golden State Power Cooperative Capitol Day
Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento
February 25, 2020

- d. California Municipal Utilities Association Annual Conference
Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco
April 5-7, 2020

- e. National Rural Electric Cooperative Administration Legislative Conference
Washington DC
April 26-28, 2020

Mr. Hauser requested that the Board advise Ms. Sheetz of their plans to attend upcoming meetings.

The Board took a brief recess at 4:23 p.m.

10. Closed Session

The Board entered into Closed Session at 4:28 p.m. on the following items:

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel
Two Potential Cases

The Board came out of Closed Session and immediately reconvened in Open Session at 4:45 p.m. President Rose reported the Board took no Reportable Action on the Closed Session Items.

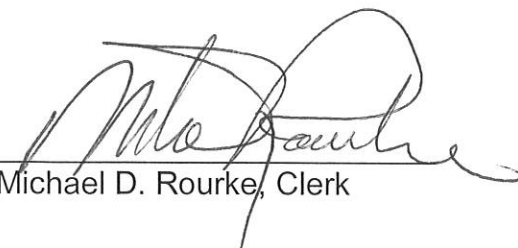
11. Public Input


None

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rose adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

ATTEST:


Michael D. Rourke, Clerk


Clarence W. Rose, President