

Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 10, 2020

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

Board Present via Audio/Video
Teleconference: Alex Cousins, Andrew Johnson, Kelli Gant, Richard Morris, and Michael Rourke

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Andy Lethbridge, Julie Catanese, and Sarah Sheetz

Others Present via Audio/Video Teleconference: Jim Underwood, Bethany Ryers, Megan Cahill, Jim Aven, Jill Cox, Tony Reed and Tom Walz

- 1. President Gant called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.**
- 2. Administer Oath of Office to Board Members Elect Kelli Gant, Alex Cousins and Andrew Johnson**

Ms. Sheetz administered the Oath of Office to Board Members Elect Kelli Gant, Alex Cousins and Andrew Johnson. The term of office for each expires December 6, 2024.

3. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

4. Public Input

None.

5. 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 12, 2020
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting November 3, 2020
- c. Validate Bills of November, 2020
- d. Approve Financial Reports for October, 2020
- e. Approve Electric Service Contract with Princeton, LLC, c/o Francis Casado in the amount of \$24,624.88 for service at 1060 13 Dipps Road in Hayfork.
- f. Approve Electric Service Contracts with Miroslav Shilev in the amount of \$24,827.69
- g. Approve Electric Service Contract with Dan McLaughlin in the amount of \$37,737.78 for service at 220 Jamie Lane in Junction City.

- h. Approve Electric Service Contract with Somchai Hoffman in the amount of \$85,876.28 for service on Tule Creek Road in Hayfork. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke.
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

6. Action Items

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar
b. Accept Auditor's Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2020, as prepared by Baker Tilly Virchow Krauss, LLP.

Bethany Ryers and Megan Cahill from Baker Tilly Virchow Krauss, LLP reviewed the Report with the Board. Ms. Cahill thanked Ms. Catanese for her preparation with the audit and quick response to questions. The Audit was completed ahead of schedule and the Auditors presented an unmodified opinion and identified no material weaknesses. President Gant thanked Ms. Catanese for her dedication on behalf of the Board. Following a discussion, Director Morris made a motion to accept the Auditor's Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2020, as presented. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

- c. Ratify No Change to Rate Schedule 10 – Public Benefit Discount Amount

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to Ratify No Change to Rate Schedule 10 – Public Benefit Discount Amount. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

- d. Ratify No Change to Rate Schedule 16 – Project Agreement Number 1 Surcharge.

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

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

e. Approve Amendment to the Affordable Comfort Program Policy.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Rourke inquired about the term 'waive' in the amended policy, suggested putting a cap on the payment amount for Title 24 calculations and inquired about the elimination of commercial construction. Mr. Hauser suggested the policy amendment could be refined and brought back at a future meeting, to which the Board agreed.

f. Approve Contract with Evergreen Job & Safety Training in the amount of \$24,860 for Calendar Year 2021.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to Approve the Contract with Evergreen Job & Safety Training in the amount of \$24,860 for Calendar Year 2021. Director Rourke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

g. Award Bid Number 20-B4 for the Oregon Mountain Communications Building to Trent Construction in the amount of \$242,500.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to Award Bid Number 20-B4 for the Oregon Mountain Communications Building to Trent Construction in the amount of \$242,500. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote.

Ayes:	Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, Richard Morris and Michael Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

h. Election of Officers of the Trinity Public Utilities District Board of Directors for Calendar Year 2021.

President Gant opened nominations for the President, Vice-President and Clerk offices for Calendar Year 2021. Director Morris nominated Mike Rourke to serve as President, Alex Cousins to serve as Vice-President and Kelli Gant to serve as Clerk. President Gant advised that the position of Clerk requires availability for signing documents, which at times is a challenge for her as she resides in Trinity Center. Director Cousins nominated Dick Morris to serve as Clerk. The nominees accepted the nominations. The slate of officers to serve for Calendar Year 2021 is:

President – Mike Rourke
Vice-President – Alex Cousins
Clerk – Dick Morris

The Board voted unanimously to approve the nominations.

7. Reports

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Reporting Metrics with the Board. Mr. Hauser advised the Board that the District was pushing hard to get inspections done.

President Gant asked how much a pole replacement costs? Mr. Lethbridge advised it ranges depending upon location, access, and equipment attached to the pole. President Gant asked what is a pole's life expectancy? Mr. Hauser responded that it varies, there are instances where the treatment hasn't been done well and a pole won't last as long, and then there are instances where poles will last well beyond 30 years.

Director Rourke asked if a third crew has been implemented? Mr. Lethbridge responded that the third crew has been created and has been assigned to maintenance.

Director Cousins stated that the Consent Calendar included \$170,000 in line extension contracts, he inquired if the District has the capacity to perform that work without compromising maintenance. He asked if there are capacity limits in any areas. Mr. Lethbridge advised that the District has more than two dozen line extension requests pending. Balancing maintenance with new work is a challenge, but that maintenance work continues to be a priority.

Mr. Hauser advised that the District has many requests for new line extensions although many requests are nowhere near ready from a county permitting standpoint. Applicants may be concerned that the line extension process is lengthy, however, crews have been able to respond to the demand so far without holding any customers up. The extra crew will remain on maintenance. The District is also initiating a Five-Year Strategic Plan which will include a fuse coordination study. This project is being driven by the huge amount of load increase being experienced.

Mr. Lethbridge advised that non-expulsion fuses are being added to any new construction and that the Troubleman has been installing approximately 12 per week. The installation of non-expulsion fuses eliminates the 10-foot ground clearance requirement around poles that have equipment installed that is capable of generating a spark.

The District utilized a Utility exemption to complete a tree removal project in the 100F camp where there had been a fire this past summer.

b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser provided an update on the Land Exchange, advising that he received a response from the United States Forest Service (USFS) earlier in the week advising of a target completion date of February 2022. Following discussion the Board requested that Mr. Hauser schedule a meeting with the USFS to discuss the project. Mr. Hauser advised he would set up a meeting and poll the Board for interest in attending.

- Power Outages

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Power Outages Summary with the Board. President Gant inquired about the overload at the Lewiston Substation following Western Area Power Administration's maintenance outage on November 22, 2020. Mr. Lethbridge advised that due to the amount of load in the area it had to be brought back up incrementally, which has not been required in the past, but will now be planned for following future maintenance outages that affect the Lewiston Substation. Mr. Hauser advised that this situation is a by-product of how much the load has increased in the Lewiston area.

Director Johnson inquired if the District had received complaints from residents of Junction City over the last week. Mr. Lethbridge advised that the District had received complaints and had determined that the load had exceeded settings on a breaker. Crews increased the setting following the complaints, which has remedied the situation. Mr. Hauser advised that there has been a dramatic increase of load in the area. Director Johnson inquired if it could be customers flipping the switch and turning on all green houses at once. Mr. Lethbridge advised that could be a contributing factor.

- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that both the Western Area Power Administration and BANC are looking to go live in the Energy Imbalance Market in March of 2021. The Trinity Settlement protects the District from any load expenses associated with the transition.

- Right-of-Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser provided an update on the Right-of-Way Project. He advised that the scoping period starts December 11, 2020 and runs through January 29, 2021. The project budget is \$3 million, of which \$1.7 million has been expended.

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Fiber Project/Voice over Internet Phone System Acquisition

Mr. Hauser reported that the fiber has been installed from the WAPA switchyard to the District's communications room in the District Office building. The District is also implementing a project to move to a Voice over Internet Phone system.

Director Morris inquired how negotiations are progressing with delivering high speed fiber to commercial customers in the County. Mr. Hauser replied that they are progressing, but a target date has not been identified.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

Mr. Cousins advised there is nothing new to report. President Gant asked if any Board Member was interested in replacing Director Walz on the Committee. Director Rourke volunteered to serve on the Ad-hoc Forestry

Committee. Issues for the Committee were identified as rights-of-way on private property, high risk lines/location, and forestry issues.

- Ad-hoc Mission Statement Committee
Nothing to report.

d. Board Member Reports

Director Morris requested that the Board return to the issue of the Red Hill Road load problem. He inquired if the District has any interplay with the County Planning Department as to the impacts of installations of utility facilities.

Mr. Hauser advised that the load profile for some High Impact customers is ten times that of a typical residential load. He advised that the cost to reconductor the Weaverville 1102 Circuit serving Junction City is significant. He advised that the Five-Year Strategic Plan will quantify what the issues are and where they are located.

8. Discussion Items

None

9. Communications Received

None

10. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. American Public Power Association – 2021 Virtual Legislative Rally
March 1-3, 2021 (tentative)
- b. California Municipal Utilities Association Virtual Capitol Days
January 25-26, 2021

Mr. Hauser asked Board Members to let Ms. Sheetz know if they would like to be registered for upcoming meetings and/or workshops.

11. Public Input

None

The Board took a brief recess at 3:47 p.m.

12. Closed Session

The Board entered into Closed Session at 3:50 p.m.

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

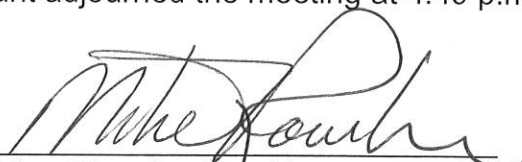
- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6
Conference with Labor Negotiator

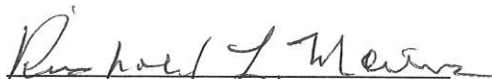
Agency Negotiator: General Manager

Employee Organization: Trinity Public Utilities District Employees' Association
and Teamsters Local 137

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Gant adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.


Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: 
Richard Morris, Clerk

OUTAGE SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 9, 2020 - DECEMBER 9, 2020

Outage	Time Off	Time On	Sub	# Out	Duration	Type	Map Location	Cause Desc	Equip Desc
202695	11/13/2020 8:00	11/13/2020 8:17	Mill Street	63	0:17	Line Section	R12085 - Powerhouse	Maintenance	Maintenance
202751	11/12/2020 9:08	11/12/2020 11:42	Hayfork	131	2:33	Line Section	F8627	Unknown Cause	Unknown Equipment Failure
202765	11/13/2020 6:45	11/13/2020 10:39	WAPA Trinity	176	3:54	Line Section	F13856	Federal Tree	OH Conductor
202770	11/13/2020 10:11	11/13/2020 12:17	Mill Street	13	2:06	Line Section	F12325	Tree	OH Conductor
202800	11/17/2020 7:48	11/17/2020 9:33	Hayfork	83	1:44	Line Section	F2170	Customer Outdown Tree	OH Conductor
202895	11/22/2020 0:00	11/22/2020 7:19	Lewiston	1191	7:19	Substation		Western Outage/Overload coming back on	Circuit breaker
			Lewiston, Mill Street, WAPA Trinity, Hayfork,						
202896	11/22/2020 0:00	11/22/2020 4:00	Douglas City	5924	3:59	Substation		Western Outage	Maintenance Outage
202998	12/3/2020 8:00	12/3/2020 14:18	Mill Street	63	6:18	Line Section		Maintenance	OH Conductor
203056	12/3/2020 10:40	12/3/2020 10:46	Mill Street	227	0:06	Line Section	F12558	Animal	Transformer