

Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
October 14, 2021

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

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

Board Absent: None

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

Others Present via Audio/Video

Teleconference: James Aven, Amanda Barragar, Tony Reed, Jacob Soutsos

1. President Rourke called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Gant made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	-Aye
Kelli Gant	-Aye
Andrew Johnson	-Aye
Richard Morris	-Aye
Michael Rourke	-Aye

3. Closed Session Report of September 9, 2021 Meeting

Ms. Sheetz provided the Closed Session Report from the September 9, 2021 meeting.

4. Public Input

Amanda Barragar inquired when the Environmental Impact Report for the Wildfire Risk, Reliability and Asset Protection Project would be available. Mr. Hauser responded that the target date is currently May of 2022.

5. Consent Calendar

Director Gant made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, Director Cousins seconded the motion. Director Johnson requested that Item 5d be pulled from the Consent Calendar. Director Gant amended her motion to approve the Consent Calendar, excepting Item 5d, Director Cousins seconded the amended motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Special Meeting September 16, 2021
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting September 7, 2021
- c. Validate Bills of September 2021
- d. ~~Approve Financial Reports for August 2021~~

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	-Aye
Kelli Gant	-Aye

Andrew Johnson -Aye
Richard Morris -Aye
Michael Rourke -Aye

6. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

Item 5d. Approve Financial Reports for August 2021.

Director Johnson noted that operating revenue the past two months was about \$200k more than budgeted. He inquired if staff knew what the increase could be attributed to. Ms. Catanese responded that the Budget is based on prior years, but includes zero load growth, meaning that revenues outdid last years numbers by that much. She advised that \$154,000 was operating and \$53,000 was non-operating, a difference which could be attributed to weather. Director Cousins made a motion to Approve the Financial Reports for August 2021. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins -Aye
Kelli Gant -Aye
Andrew Johnson -Aye
Richard Morris -Aye
Michael Rourke -Aye

b. Authorize Purchase of Four New Vehicles Utilizing Ford's Governmental Fleet Pricing

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a lengthy discussion regarding the timing of the purchase, Director Gant made a motion to authorize staff to proceed with the purchase of vehicles using Ford's Governmental Fleet Pricing through Crown Motors Fleet Division in the amount of \$141,839. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins -Aye
Kelli Gant -Aye
Andrew Johnson -Aye
Richard Morris -Aye
Michael Rourke -Aye

c. Approve Re-Districting Bill Stuffer in the October 21, 2021 Billing on Behalf of Trinity County

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Morris made a motion that an amended Re-Districting Bill Stuffer to be included in the October 21, 2021 Billing on behalf of Trinity County. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins -Aye
Kelli Gant -Aye
Andrew Johnson -Aye
Richard Morris -Aye
Michael Rourke -Aye

7. Reports

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report (attached and incorporated herein), with the Board. The District has completed just over 4,000 patrol inspections and 830 intrusive inspections from January 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021. The annual goals are 6,000 and 1,000 respectively.

b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that he will be reaching out to the United States Forest Service to resume the Land Exchange process, now that wildfire season is nearing an end.

- Power Outages

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Outage Summary with the Board (attached and incorporated herein). The District remains on one-shot, which significantly impacts the frequency of outages. PG&E Public Safety Power Shut-offs also impact District customers. The District has four substations with approximately 350 customers served by PG&E Transmission lines.

- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that BANC is looking at doing a solicitation for renewable energy as members of BANC are interested in renewable energy to meet state mandates. He advised that natural gas prices are up, and that geothermal, biomass and batteries are expensive alternatives. Trinity PUD is already compliant with the State renewable mandate due to legislation that states that the Districts hydropower is considered renewable.

- Right-of-Way (ROW) Project Update

Mr. Hauser reported that the Environmental Impact Report is now expected in May of 2022. There was some impact in the review process due to wildfire season.

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Fiber Project Update/Oregon Mountain Communications Building Update

Mr. Hauser reported that the Oregon Mountain Communications Building is complete and that the fiber connection from Trinity PUD's District Office to the Lewiston Substation should be completed in November.

- Tesla Car Charging Stations

Mr. Hauser reported that the Weaverville Chamber of Commerce is interested in producing a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, but the expected completion date for the car charging stations may have encountered delays.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

No Report

- Ad-hoc Mission Statement Committee
Director Morris shared a proposed Mission Statement, attached and incorporated herein. He advised he would like the Boards input. Director Gant suggested that the Mission Statement be revisited after the rate discussions have concluded. President Rourke thanked the Committee for their work.
- Ad-hoc Rate Committee
No Report
- Ad-hoc Public Communications Committee
Director Cousins advised that he and Director Johnson met and had prepared a proposal for the Board, attached and incorporated herein.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Committee, with the assistance of staff, would prepare a presentation for the Board to review at the November 9, 2021 meeting. Topics for inclusion in the presentation included increasing costs, climate change, resiliency, droughts, and a comparison of rates with other utility companies, among other items.

A proposed schedule was circulated and a poll will be conducted to determine Board Member availability for the public outreach meetings.

d. Board Member Reports

Director Johnson reported on his attendance at the NCPA Conference in Napa. Director Gant and Mr. Hauser also attended the Conference.

8. Discussion Items

- Rate Discussion
Mr. Hauser distributed documents relative to the Rate Discussion, incorporated herein by reference. A discussion ensued regarding potential rate structure which included the topics of how many customers remain on hold due to capacity issues, the Drought Relief Surcharge, the Central Valley Project and first preference power, comparable rates from neighboring utilities, electrifying transportation, durability of the cannabis industry, reason and need for improvements to infrastructure, and County Planning/zoning and the impact on utilities.

9. Communications Received

- a. The Trinity County Fair submitted a letter thanking the District for its participation in the Trinity County Fair Junior Livestock Auction.
- b. Madison McNeely submitted a letter of thanks for the District's purchase of her swine.
- c. Arabella Carini submitted a letter of thanks for the District's purchase of her swine.
- d. The Roderick Hayfork Senior Nutrition Center submitted a letter of thanks for the District's donation of three swine to its members.

10. Meetings and/or Workshops

Mr. Hauser reported that he attended the Golden State Power Cooperative Annual Meeting. Topics of discussion were California’s strict liability, Biomass as a renewable energy source and Broadband implementation in rural areas.

11. Public Input

James Aven commented that he thought the earlier comment about batteries being volatile or catching fire was inaccurate.

The Board took a brief recess at 4:44 p.m.

13. Closed Session

The Board entered into Closed Session at 4:52 p.m.

- a. Director Cousins made a motion to Authorize the General Manager to deny the claim submitted by the United States Forest Service for the Hobo Fire. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	-Aye
Kelli Gant	-Aye
Andrew Johnson	-Aye
Richard Morris	-Aye
Michael Rourke	-Aye

The Board took no action on the second item identified as anticipated litigation under government code §54956.9

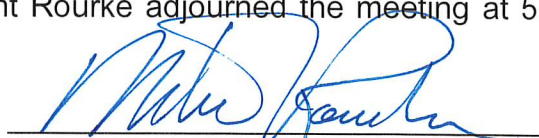
- b. The Board took no action on the existing litigation with Alfred and Jean Baldocchi under government code §54956.9.

- c. Director Morris made a motion to increase the General Managers annual compensation by two (2) percent from \$9,182.94 per pay period to \$9,366.60 per pay period, retroactive to his anniversary date of September 6, 2021. Director Gant seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	-Aye
Kelli Gant	-Aye
Andrew Johnson	-Aye
Richard Morris	-Aye
Michael Rourke	-Aye

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.



Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: 
Richard Morris, Clerk

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Wildfire Mitigation Efforts 2021 - Report to Date (9/30/2021)

Annual Pole Inspection Data

Patrol Inspection - all poles 1x every 2 years (target is 6,000/year)

Intrusive Inspection - due at 15 years, then 20 year interval if passes (target 1,000/year)

Date	1/1/2021 - 9/30/2021
Inspections Completed	4,013
Intrusives Completed	839
Poles Reported Damaged	178
Work Orders Completed	150

Monument+ River Fire
Silvertop Tree Service
Watkins Tree Service

Removed 90% of Fire damaged Hazard trees adjacent to powerlines in Big Bar, Helena, Junction City, Hayfork

	July	August (pre-fire)	September
Trims	728	249	798
Removal Class 1	751	133	789
Removal Class 2	110	40	147
Brush Cut	29	0	23
T&M Hours removals	148	42	206

ROW Brushing and Chipping		
TCRCD	Silvertop Tree Service	The Watershed Center
Dutch creek	2.2 miles of ROW DC 60kv ROW TNI 2101 South Carrville	Senger Rd. Dutch creek Rd

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OUTAGE SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 - OCTOBER 13, 2021

Outage	Time Off	Time On	Sub	Map Location	Feeder	# Out	Duration	Type	Cause Desc	Equip Desc
209004	9/14/2021 18:31	9/15/2021 12:22	Mill Street	Helena Road	W02	3	17:50	Line Section	Fire	OH Conductor
209155	9/19/2021 9:30	9/19/2021 10:26	Mill Street	Rush Creek Estates/Bear Creek	W06	164	0:56	Line Section	Animal/Bird	Fuse
209227	9/22/2021 16:30	9/22/2021 18:12	Douglas City	R6862 - Readings Creek	DC1	218	1:42	Line Section	Tree	Fuse
209156	9/23/2021 8:00	9/23/2021 14:09	Hayfork	Riverview Road	HF1	24	6:09	Line Section	Maintenance	No Equipment Failure
209257	9/24/2021 13:28	9/24/2021 16:27	Hayfork	Morgan Hill/Kingsbury	HF3	590	2:59	Line Section	Tree	Fuse
209260	10/6/2021 8:00	10/6/2021 14:15	WAPA Trinity	Swift Creek North	T21	270	6:15	Line Section	Maintenance	Maintenance
209364	10/7/2021 7:34	10/7/2021 8:35	Mill Street	Benoist Lane	W06	13	1:01	Line Section	Unknown Cause	Unknown Equipment Failure
209416	10/11/2021 1:30	10/11/2021 5:12	Mill Street	Canyon Creek	W02	33	3:42	Line Section	Tree	Fuse
209435	10/11/2021 11:23	10/11/2021 12:26	Lewiston	Rush Creek Rd/Goose Ranch	L01	162	1:03	Line Section	Tree	OH Conductor

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Who are we. What do we do is submitted as a proposed mission statement.

Trinity PUD is here to enhance our County economy, founded in 1982 to insure you receive competitively priced renewable, Trinity River generated electricity. Trinity PUD will be here to protect and preserve your energy future while providing prompt, reliable response to your energy needs.

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Rate Increase Outreach Suggested Plan

1. October Regular Board Meeting (Thursday 10/7)
 - a. Discuss outreach program presented by outreach committee
 - b. Start advertisement and outreach for meetings ASAP
 - i. Trinity PUD Official Facebook Page, Share in community groups
 - ii. Newspaper Ad
 - iii. Board of Supervisor Meeting Announcement / Public Comment
 - iv. Insert mailed with Bill?

2. November Regular Board Meeting (Thursday 11/11)
 - a. Presentation
 - i. Suggested topics to cover
 1. District Overview
 - a. Financial situation
 - b. First Preference Power
 - c. Power Sources (we don't generate power)
 - d. High Fixed Cost Utility
 - e. Current Rate Structure
 2. Unfunded Mandates
 - a. Pole Replacements
 - b. Aggressive Vegetation Management and Tree Trimming
 - c. ROW Expansion
 - d. Other examples of increased expenses?
 3. Recent completed capital improvement projects
 - a. Lewiston
 - b. Hayfork
 4. Expected capital improvements
 - a. Junction City
 - b. Additional 5 Year Plan Items?
 - c. ROW Expansion
 5. Rate Increase
 - a. Example Scenarios to present

3. November special board meetings – Presentations, Questions and Listening Session
 - a. Held in the communities, COVID depending, recorded, after work hours
 - i. Hayfork
 - ii. Junction City
 - iii. Weaverville
 - iv. Trinity Center
 - v. Lewiston?
 - b. Possible Evenings
 - i. Monday 11/15 - Thursday 11/18
 - ii. Monday 11/22 - Tuesday 11/23
 - iii. Monday 11/29 - Thursday 12/2

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4. December Regular Board Meeting (12/9)
 - a. Board discuss rate increase – vote

5. January Regular Board Meeting (1/13)
 - a. Second rate increase vote

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Trinity PUD

Assumptions:

Meters @ 6/30/2021
KWH FY 20/21 Actuals

System Access Charge Increases:

Revenue Class		Active Meters	Total Increase	
Residential	Weaverville	2535	\$ 14.00	End rate is \$1.25 per day
Commercial	Weaverville	715	\$ 21.00	End Rate is \$1.87 per day
High Impact Load	Weaverville	37	\$ 75.00	End Rate is \$3.95 per day
Industrial	Weaverville	6	\$ -	
Residential	Other Area	3318	\$ 14.00	
Commercial	Other Area	414	\$ 21.00	
High Impact Load	Other Area	214	\$ 75.00	
Total Meters		7239		

Revenue Impact:

Revenue Class	Location	Revenue Generated By Increase to SAC	
		YEAR ONE INCREASE	
Residential	Weaverville	\$ 425,880	
Commercial	Weaverville	\$ 180,180	
High Impact Load	Weaverville	\$ 33,300	
Industrial	Weaverville	\$ -	
Residential	Other Area	\$ 557,424	
Commercial	Other Area	\$ 104,328	
High Impact Load	Other Area	\$ 192,600	
		\$ 1,493,712	

Rate Increases/Decreases:

Revenue Class	Location	FY 20/21 Rates	FY 21/22 YEAR		Increase/ decrease	
			ONE			
Residential	Weaverville	0.06845	0.07722	0.00877	13%	
Commercial	Weaverville	0.08558	0.09559	0.01001	12%	
High Impact Load	Weaverville	0.10010	0.159	0.05890	59%	
Industrial	Weaverville	0.04842	0.05133	0.00291	6%	
Residential	Other Area	0.09122	0.07722	-0.01400	-15%	
Commercial	Other Area	0.10561	0.09559	-0.01002	-9%	
High Impact Load	Other Area	0.12413	0.159	0.03487	28%	

Revenue Impact:

Revenue Class	Location	FY 20/21 KWH	YEAR ONE
Residential	Weaverville	31,440,484	\$ 275,733
Commercial	Weaverville	18,072,963	\$ 180,910
High Impact Load	Weaverville	3,251,472	\$ 191,512
Industrial	Weaverville	11,236,476	\$ 32,698
Residential	Other Area	33,691,163	\$ (471,676)
Commercial	Other Area	7,246,627	\$ (72,611)
High Impact Load	Other Area	14,890,974	\$ 519,248
Total Revenue Increase from Rate Increase			\$ 655,814
			\$ 290,279

TOTAL REVENUE IMPACT

Revenue Class	Location	TOTAL YEAR ONE
Residential	Weaverville	\$ 701,613
Commercial	Weaverville	\$ 361,090
High Impact Load	Weaverville	\$ 224,812
Industrial	Weaverville	\$ 32,698
Residential	Other Area	\$ 85,748
Commercial	Other Area	\$ 31,717
High Impact Load	Other Area	\$ 711,848
Subtotal		\$ 2,149,526

**TRINITY PUD
BILL CALCULATION TABLES
May-20**

Current Rates

METHOD 1 - RATES									0.0285
	INPUT: KWH USED	FLAT CHARGE	PUBLIC BENEFITS CHARGE ON FLAT CHARGE	BASE RATE	DROUGHT RELIEF SURCHARGE	CALIFORNIA ENERGY TAX RATE	PUBLIC BENEFITS CHARGE	FINAL BILL	
Residential - Weaverville	1000	\$ 24.00	\$ 0.68	\$0.05545	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0020	\$95.43	
Residential - Other	1000	\$ 24.00	\$ 0.68	\$0.07822	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0026	\$118.80	
Commercial - Weaverville	3500	\$ 36.00	\$ 1.03	\$0.07258	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0025	\$346.36	
Commercial - Other	3500	\$ 36.00	\$ 1.03	\$0.09261	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0031	\$418.57	
High Impact Load - WV	10000	\$ 45.00	\$ 1.28	\$0.08710	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0029	\$1,079.28	
High Impact Load - Other	10000	\$ 45.00	\$ 1.28	\$0.11113	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0036	\$1,326.58	

Restructured Rates

METHOD 1 - RATES									0.0285		
	INPUT: KWH USED	FLAT CHARGE	PUBLIC BENEFITS CHARGE ON FLAT CHARGE	BASE RATE	DROUGHT RELIEF SURCHARGE	CALIFORNIA ENERGY TAX RATE	PUBLIC BENEFITS CHARGE	FINAL BILL	\$\$\$ Increase	%% Increase	
Residential - Weaverville	1000	\$ 38.00	\$ 1.08	\$0.06422	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0023	\$118.90	\$23.47	25%	
Residential - Other	1000	\$ 38.00	\$ 1.08	\$0.06422	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0023	\$118.90	\$0.10	0%	
Commercial - Weaverville	3500	\$ 57.00	\$ 1.62	\$0.08259	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0028	\$404.04	\$57.68	17%	
Commercial - Other	3500	\$ 57.00	\$ 1.62	\$0.08259	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0028	\$404.04	-\$14.53	-3%	
High Impact Load - WV	10000	\$ 120.00	\$ 3.42	\$0.14600	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0046	\$1,762.42	\$683.14	63%	
High Impact Load - Other	10000	\$ 120.00	\$ 3.42	\$0.14600	\$0.01300	0.00030	\$0.0046	\$1,762.42	\$435.84	33%	

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