

Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 13, 2012

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room
Weaverville, California

Board Present: Richard Morris, Rose Owens, Thomas Ludden, Keith Groves, Kelli Gant

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Andy Lethbridge, Julie Catanese, Elizabeth Johnson, Kellie Ambrose, Karen Palmer

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

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Ludden motioned to approve the Agenda order. With a second from Director Owens, the motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Richard Morris, Thomas Ludden, Rose Owens, Keith Groves, Kelli Gant

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. Consent Calendar

Director Groves motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. Second by Director Ludden, the Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting August 9, 2012
- b. Approve Minutes of the Safety Meeting August 6, 2012
- c. Validate Bills of August, 2012
- d. Approve Financial Reports for July, 2012

4. Public Input

- a. None

5. Action Items

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar
None

- b. Adopt Resolution 12-04 Revising the Schedule of Miscellaneous Service Charges

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Mr. Hauser informed the Board that Staff utilized the cost causation principle to determine the cost of services that are provided.

After some discussion Director Gant suggested that the Resolution refer to the revision number on the Schedule of Miscellaneous Service Charges in case the Resolution and the Fee Schedule become separated.

Director Groves motioned to: 1) Adopt Resolution 12-04 as amended, Rescinding Current Miscellaneous Service Charges and Adopting New Miscellaneous Service Charges, and 2) Revise the Utility Billing Delinquency, Late Payment, and Disconnections Policy as presented. Seconded by Director Gant, the motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Director Gant: Aye
Director Owens: Aye
Director Ludden: Aye
Director Groves: Aye
President Morris: Aye

c. Authorize Public Power Week Celebration

President Morris recused himself and departed the meeting at 2:08 p.m., turning the meeting over to Vice-President Owens.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Mr. Hauser reminded the Board that every year the District celebrates Public Power Week with a notice in the paper and a letter to the editor. This year Staff would like to expand the celebration by doubling the Heat Pump Rebates. Mr. Hauser informed the Board that since January there have been twenty-five rebates applied to electric accounts.

After a brief discussion, Director Gant motioned to authorize the General Manager to place the amended advertisement and Letter to the Editor in the local paper and to increase the Heat Pump Rebate for applications and scheduled installations during the month of October. Seconded by Director Groves, the motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Kelli Gant, Rose Owens, Thomas Ludden, Keith Groves
Noes: None
Absent: Richard Morris
Abstain: None

President Morris returned at 2:15 p.m.

d. Nomination of Two Board Members to the Community Investment Committee

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Staff reviewed with the Board some of the projects that these funds have assisted with.

After a brief discussion President Morris appointed Directors' Gant and Groves to the Community Investment Committee.

6. Discussion items

- a. None

7. Reports

a. Board Member Reports

- President Morris informed the Board Members that he recently attended the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) Board Meeting in Anchorage Alaska.

President Morris stated that NWPPA is pushing to get large hydroelectric projects to be considered as renewable energy. Support for this has grown since hydroelectric generation is being used to subsidize both wind and solar generation. President Morris also mentioned that NWPPA is in the process of hiring a lobbyist, Scott Lindsey, to push this through. Another major concern that Mr. Lindsey will be working on is the Chu Memo.

President Morris stated that he has two more years before his term is completed.

- Director Groves informed the Board that there are some land owners interested in running power lines out Coffee Creek Road. He stated that he spoke with Mr. Hauser, and that Mr. Lethbridge has gone out to look at the proposed line extension. Director Groves mentioned that there are fewer land owners and the line extension would be longer than the Long Canyon area. He also stated that there might be one small hydroelectric plant involved.

b. Committee Reports

None

c. General Manager's Reports

- Lewiston Project
Mr. Hauser reported to the Board that the Project is on hold at this time. He has contacted the City of Redding to inquire if they might be interested in purchasing the Project. Mr. Hauser also stated that he will bring this to the Board next month as an Action Item to determine the financial economics of the Project.
- Land Swap
Mr. Hauser informed the Board that he and Susan Stohr will be traveling to Washington DC the last week of this month. There is an opportunity to meet with representatives from Senators' Feinstein and Boxer's office along with representatives from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in order to get legislation introduced in the Senate.

Mr. Hauser also stated that there is a meeting with the Forest Service and BLM scheduled for October 18th in Weaverville.

- Website
Mr. Hauser informed the Board that there have been some minor adjustments to the Website. He also stated that Staff has not had the opportunity to provide the requested information to Peter yet.

- Community Choice Aggregation
Mr. Hauser stated that Supervisor Otto and he are presenting the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to the complete Board of Supervisors on October 2nd. This was postponed due to Budget hearings that the County is presently holding. Supervisor Otto would like the Board of Supervisors to be on record stating that they are supporting the formation of a CCA. This will be accomplished with a Resolution of Support.

 - Outages
Mr. Hauser reported that the only significant outage was due to the Wildwood fire. Approximately twelve customers were affected by this outage. Six of those twelve customers were reenergized fairly quickly, however the other six were out from Thursday afternoon until Monday. The only damage to District facilities was 3-4 spans of primary that has been de-energized for three years.

 - October Board Meeting Location
Mr. Hauser reminded the Board that at one point it was suggested that the Board meetings be rotated around to different areas of our service territory. There was discussion regarding moving the Board meeting and it was concluded that the only time the District will change our meeting place is if there is an item that has specific interest for that area.

 - March Board Meeting – APPA Conflict
Mr. Hauser mentioned to the Board that APPA's Legislative Rally is during the March Board Meeting date. He stated that the Board could chose to either reschedule or cancel the meeting. This will be discussed closer to March's meeting.

 - Long Canyon Update
Mr. Hauser informed the Board that Mr. John Scott has circulated a letter of interest asking for signatures. Mr. Scott sent out approximately fifty letters and has received thirty-six affirmative responses. There are two families that are planning on selling, therefore they do not want to commit to the cost. Sierra Pacific has indicated interest in service on their parcel as well.
- Mr. Hauser stated that the customers who have responded would like underground power. He also stated that based on the response, the Project appears to be feasible. District Staff is going to continue moving forward with creating a formal design for the electric line.
- August 29th Meeting with Trinity Hospital
Mr. Hauser reported to the Board that he met with Mr. Tom Piper, Trinity Hospitals Administrator, regarding upgrading their HVAC equipment.

Not on the Agenda

- Meeting with Trinity River Lumber Mill
Mr. Hauser informed the Board that he met with Dee Sanders and Ken Dunn from the Mill last week regarding Biomass. They expressed a desire to dry the lumber because there is a greater market for dry lumber over green lumber. Mr. Hauser stated that he informed Dee he would contact the City of Redding and find out what they might be willing to pay for biomass energy.
- Upset Customer
Mr. Hauser reported to the Board that Staff has been dealing with a customer who was evicted from their home, broke back into the home, and is insisting that the District needs to provide them with power. He stated that the District cannot knowingly supply them with electricity because it would create a liability issue if the residence where to catch fire. The Board concurred.
- Grand Jury Letter
Mr. Hauser stated that the District received a thank you letter from the Grand Jury for our timely response. They also inquired as to the progress of forming a Community Choice Aggregation District. Mr. Hauser stated that he has contacted Supervisor Otto to inquire if she was going to respond. Supervisor Otto informed him that she is not planning on responding. Mr. Hauser informed the Board that he will respond with a letter stating that the County has taken the lead on this project and the District is assisting.

8. Communications Received

- a. Letter to the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy
Mr. Hauser reported to the Board that Western Area Power Administration is in the process of replacing Mr. Tim Meeks. Mr. Meeks was a strong advocate for the electric customers that purchase their power from Western. APPA created a template for utility companies to use to express their concern that Western replaces Mr. Meeks with an individual who has experience with both utilities and Western.
- b. Thank You From Tennis Group
Mr. Hauser reported that the District received a nice thank you card from the Tennis Group for the work we did on lighting for the pickle ball court.

9. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. NCPA Annual Conference
Monterey, CA
September 19-21
Director Owen's stated that she may not be able to attend after all. She will contact the office Monday if she is unable to attend.

10. Closed Session

Director Ludden motioned to go into Closed Session at 3:52 p.m., seconded by Director Owens, the Board entered into Closed Session on the following:

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9(b)
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Two Potential Cases

- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9(a)
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
One Potential Case
McColm vs. PG&E, et al
Trinity County Superior Court Case No. 10CV065

- c. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6
Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: Board of Directors
Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employee:
General Manager

Andy Lethbridge, Julie Catanese, and Kellie Ambrose departed at 3:40 p.m.

Karen Palmer departed at 4:10 p.m.

Paul Hauser departed at 4:15 p.m. and returned at 4:45 p.m.

The Board came out of Closed Session and immediately reconvened in Open Session at 4:50 p.m. President Morris reported that the following action was taken during Closed Session:

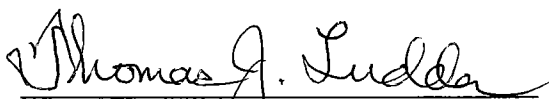
- a. Approved Agreement in Concept
- b. No Action
- c. No Action

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Director Groves, second by Director Owens, passing unanimously, the Board adjourned at 4:55 p.m.



Richard L. Morris, President

Attest: 

Thomas J. Ludden, Clerk