

**Trinity Public Utilities District**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**March 09, 2017**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room  
Weaverville, California

Board Present: Thomas Ludden, Richard Morris, Kelli Gant, Clarence Rose

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser (Via Telephone), Julie Catanese, James Underwood, Andy Lethbridge, Karen Palmer, Scott Murrison, Jim Avens, Bobbi Chadwick, Mike Rourke, Amy Gittelsohn

**1. President Rose 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 Morris, the motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Thomas Ludden, Richard Morris, Kelli Gant, Clarence Rose

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**3. Consent Calendar**

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

- a. Approve Minutes of the Special Board Meeting February 15, 2017
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting February 07, 2017
- c. Validate Bills of February, 2017
- d. Approve Financial Reports for January, 2017

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Thomas Ludden, Richard Morris, Kelli Gant, Clarence Rose

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**4. Public Input**

a. Scott Murrison Line Extension

Mr. Scott Murrison from Hayfork informed the Board that he has purchased the property at the end of the line on the Wildwood Road. Prior to purchasing the property District staff provided him with an estimate of \$40,000.00 to replace the line that had been de-energized for years and then burned in the Stafford fire.

After purchasing the property he has been provided an estimate of \$80,000 and now the United States Forest Service is involved. He stated that it would have been nice to know prior to purchasing the property that the Forest Service was going to be involved in the repair to the electric line. He stated that the Forest Service is slowing down the restoration and he is very frustrated.

Ms. Bobbi Chadwick, Trinity County Board of Supervisor, asked if the District could do anything to speed up the process because the service would be feeding a residence.

President Rose thanked Mr. Murrison and Ms. Chadwick for coming to the Board and stated that there really isn't anything the District can do to speed up the process. He stated that Mr. Murrison needs to continue working with Mr. Hauser and Mr. Lethbridge.

Mr. Murrison and Ms. Chadwick departed at 2:10 p.m.

b. Mr. Jim Aven – Technical Companies for Economic Development

Mr. Aven stated that when Director Gant was campaigning there was mention that there was interest in encouraging technical companies into moving to Trinity County in an effort to improve the economy. He asked if there has been any progress on achieving this effort. Director Gant stated that the District is in communication with an individual who is working towards attempting to get a data park to move to Trinity County.

Mr. Avens departed at 2:20 p.m.

## 5. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

None

b. Appoint New Board Member

President Rose reviewed the Report to the Board. He stated that this is the time for the Board Members to discuss their thoughts regarding the candidates who were interviewed at the last Board meeting.

Director Ludden stated that both candidates are excellent and he would like to appoint both to the Board.

Director Gant stated that she concurred with Director Ludden that both candidates are excellent. She would like to appoint Alex Cousins to the fill the vacancy because of his connections in Washington, DC.

Director Morris stated that he also concurred with Directors Ludden and Gant regarding the excellent candidates. He stated that the ad hoc committee did an excellent job in selecting the candidates for interviews. Director Morris stated that it was a pleasure working with former Director Owens and admired her support of the southern area of the County. He

believes that even though the entire Board should represent the needs of our entire service area and that there are no “districts” on the Board, the District should still recognize the needs of the southern area of the County and continue to have a resident from that area on the Board. Therefore, he would like to appoint Mike Rourke to fill the vacant position on the Board.

President Rose stated that the decision is difficult because both candidates are excellent. He stated that he believes it is best to maintain the geographic diversity that we have had representing the District’s service area and would agree with Director Morris.

After a brief discussion, Director Morris motioned that the Board appoint Mike Rourke to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Rose Owens. Seconded by Director Ludden, the motion passed with the following roll call vote:

President Rose	Aye
Director Morris	Aye
Director Ludden	Aye
Director Gant	Nay

Mr. Rourke thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. He stated that it has been his long term agenda to be on the District’s Board; however he is sorry that it is caused by the departure of Director Owens.

President Rose welcomed Mr. Rourke to the Board and informed him that he would be sworn in at the April 13, 2017 meeting.

## 6. Discussion Items

### a. Discuss Replacement of the District’s Automated Meter Reading System

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. He stated that due to the purchase cost, he placed this on the Agenda as a Discussion Item so the Board could take the time to review and think about the purchase.

Mr. Hauser stated that there are only three manufacturers that utilize powerline carrier technology and TWACs is the leader in this field. Ms. Palmer and Mr. Lethbridge both stated that TWACs has been around for over 20 years and that even with updates to the software and hardware, the equipment has never become obsolete.

The Board discussed in depth and detail with Staff about the abilities that both the current meter reading system has and what TWACs can offer, as well as the installation process. The Board also discussed the possibility of purchasing the system with reserves or with different forms of financing.

The Board decided to hold a Special Board Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm to decide whether to purchase the meter reading system and if so, which method to use for the purchase.

## 7. Reports

### a. General Manager's Reports

Mr. Hauser stated that he did not plan to provide a General Manager's Report. He will prepare one for the March 16, 2017 meeting.

### b. Board Member Reports

#### APPA Rally

Director Morris stated that they attended several meetings while in Washington, DC. During these meetings there was the opportunity to discuss the various issues that affect the District.

Director Gant expressed the importance of having a lobbyist in Washington, DC. Ms. Stohr was able to arrange for several meetings with key individuals regarding District issues.

Director Rose stated that he is in the process of writing a two page brief on District issues. This brief could be used by the District's lobbyists, District Staff, and Board Members.

### c. Committee Reports

None

## 8. Communications Received

### a. Cost for Survey on Sky Ranch and Weaverville Parcel

Mr. Hauser stated that has received information regarding the cost to survey both the Sky Ranch and the Weaverville parcels. The Bureau of Land Mangement quoted \$94,629.

Mr. Rourke suggested that the District contact Mr. Mike Wines in Hayfork and see if he is still able to perform the survey. He stated that Mr. Wines has performed surveys for the Federal Government in the past and his cost could be more reasonable

## 9. Meetings and/or Workshops

### a. California Municipal Utility Association Annual Conference

#### Sheraton Resort

#### Carlsbad, CA

#### March 28-30, 2017

Mr. Hauser stated that Ms. Palmer still needs the travel arrangements to complete the trip itineraries.

### b. Northwest Public Power Association Annual Conference

#### Sunriver, Oregon

#### May 7-10, 2017

Mr. Hauser asked that Board Members who are interested in attending to make their travel arrangements and let Ms. Palmer know what they are.

- c. American Public Power Association Annual Conference  
Orlando, Florida  
June 16-21, 2017

Mr. Hauser asked that any Board Member who is interested in attending that they let Ms. Palmer know.

**10. Closed Session**

Director Ludden motioned to go into Closed Session at 3:12 p.m., second by Director Gant, the Board entered into Closed Session on the following:

- a. Closed Session item Under Government Code §54957.6

**Conference with Labor Negotiator**

Agency Negotiator:

General Manager

Employee Organization:

Trinity Public Utilities District

The Board came out of Closed Session and immediately reconvened in Open Session at 3:23 p.m. President Rose reported that there was no action taken in Closed Session.

**11. Public Input**

- a. None

**12. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Director Ludden, second by Director Morris, passing unanimously, the Board adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Clarence W. Rose, President

ATTEST:

  
Thomas J. Ludden, Clerk