

**Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING
August 8, 2019**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room
Weaverville, California

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

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Julie Catanese, Andy Lethbridge, Karen Palmer, Sarah Sheetz, Michael Snyder, Jake Grossman-Crist, Everett Harvey, Tom Ballanco, John Brower, John Letton and Amy Gittelsohn

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

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Gant made a motion to approve the Agenda. Second from Director Morris, 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. Public Input

None

4. Discussion Items:

a. Rate Schedule 20, High Impact Load Service

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. A discussion amongst the Board ensued with several questions regarding how the District will determine when a customer is placed in the High Impact Load (HIL) rate class, how diversity factor is determined and what it means relative to new growth, and the current status of several substations relative to load capacity.

President Rose opened the Public Hearing for Rate Schedule 20 at 1:19 p.m.

Michael Snyder, a customer in the Oregon Mountain area, thanked the District for putting in new power lines in his area. He inquired about the impact of a solar system on this rate schedule, or the potential for a solar rate schedule for customers feeding the grid.

John Brower, a customer from Junction City, provided information on typical lighting schedules for cannabis farms and stated this is an opportunity for collaboration. President Rose requested that Mr. Brower submit ideas to staff. President Rose clarified that the rate is not limited to cannabis farms, it is

specifically for those customers who meet the criteria of a high impact load, regardless of the industry or business being operated.

Jake Grossman-Crist, a resident of Hayfork, inquired if licensed cannabis grows will be getting power in excess of 400 amps per parcel. President Rose advised that the District would like to serve loads that are higher than 400 amps if they do not have a detrimental impact on the system, and that this Rate is the first step. Mr. Grossman-Crist thanked the Board for beginning the discussion and stated that access to power is key for many cannabis farmers.

Tom Ballanco, a resident of Hayfork stated that he is glad to see the Board approaching this concept and he supports the investment in infrastructure.

Everett Harvey, a customer from Weaverville stated that he appreciates the discussion and forethought, as he believes there is a tendency in special districts to not account for depreciation of equipment and be hit with large expenses when equipment has to be replaced.

John Brower noted that the commercial cannabis industry is very labor intensive and has the potential to bring many jobs to the area.

There being no further comments, President Rose closed the Public Hearing at 1:40 p.m.

A discussion amongst the Board ensued.

Director Cousins inquired if the use of solar could offset a customer who would otherwise qualify for the High Impact Load. Mr. Hauser responded that yes, the use of solar would affect the load factor.

Director Morris inquired if the installation of new Voltage Regulators at the Lewiston Substation was related to High Impact Loads. Mr. Hauser responded that Lewiston Substation is currently at maximum capacity due to high impact loads and must be upgraded to handle additional load.

Director Morris requested a comparison in the proposed High Impact Load with PG & E rates. Mr. Hauser stated that the rate is less than half of PG & E's agricultural rate. Director Morris inquired if it is enough for the necessary improvements. Mr. Hauser advised that staff would like to get some experience with the rate, but that it may need to be reconsidered at a future meeting.

Director Gant asked if the additional funds collected due to the rate would be earmarked for improvements to infrastructure. Mr. Hauser stated that is what the funds are intended for, but that the improvements cannot necessarily be isolated to only equipment, poles, or wire. The work requires the use of District tools, vehicles, and heavy equipment, which also require maintenance and replacement with use and age.

Director Rourke commented on the public input relative to lighting loads, noting that the load incurred is not limited to lighting, but also includes items such as heating, cooling, and irrigation.

President Rose stated for clarification that the District's position in terms of the infrastructure needed to support new load is the infrastructure directly applicable to the expected load, and that the applicant is responsible for everything on that circuit to make their project work, including the engineering, paid in advance. The revenue generated by the new rate is intended to improve that portion of the infrastructure which may not be directly related to the project.

b. Rate Schedule 21, Commercial Power Service Promotional Rate

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. After a brief discussion, President Rose opened the Public Hearing at 2:00 p.m.

Michael Snyder stated that he supports the proposed rate schedule.

Jake Grossman-Crist stated that the customers who qualify for the High Impact Load Rate employ many, but that this rate states it does not apply to those customers. President Rose advised that the High Impact Load Rate is due to the impact on infrastructure.

John Brower stated that he supports the rate schedule and would like to see it applied to commercial, industrial, agricultural and high impact load accounts.

There being no further comments from the public, President Rose closed the Public Hearing at 2:08 p.m.

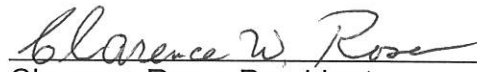
A discussion amongst the Board ensued, with several questions relative to customer qualifications for this promotional rate.

5. Public Input

None

6. Adjournment

President Rose adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.


Clarence Rose, President

ATTEST:


Michael D. Rourke, Clerk