

Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 13, 2021

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

Board Present: Alex Cousins, Kelli Gant, Andrew Johnson, 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: Jim Aven, Jill Cox, Don Gilbert, Amanda Barragar

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 voice vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. Presentation by Don Gilbert of Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson and Smith

Mr. Hauser introduced Don Gilbert of Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson and Smith. The District has enjoyed a longstanding relationship with Mr. Gilbert and his firm. Mr. Gilbert provided an overview of topics of interest at the State level, and a more in depth discussion on California's strict liability law and inverse condemnation for public entities. The discussion continued on the effects of California's laws on the ability for residents and businesses to obtain fire liability insurance.

4. Closed Session Report of the April 8, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Underwood provided the Closed Session Report of the April 8, 2021 Meeting.

5. Public Input

None

6. Consent Calendar

Director Morris made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, Director Cousins seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting April 8, 2021
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting March 30, 2021
- c. Validate Bills of April, 2021
- d. Approve Financial Reports for March, 2021

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

7. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent

b. Adopt Resolution 21-01 approving submission of a Grant Application to the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection Project.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board, advising that staff was working with Aspen Environmental Group on the grant submission and that the District has obtained letters of support from Senators McGuire and Wood, as well as from the United States Forest Service. Following a discussion, Director Gant made a motion to Adopt Resolution 21-01, approving a submission of a Grant Application to the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the Wildfire risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection Project. 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

c. Fiscal Year 21/22 Budget Assumptions and District Goals

Mr. Hauser advised that a revised report was distributed, attached and incorporated herein, which included revisions to the power costs, negatively affecting Reserves. He advised that the District has experienced a thirteen percent (13%) increase in sales. If the District intends to continue to service new load, capital improvements will be necessary. A discussion regarding potential projects, the Five-Year Strategic Plan, potential funding sources and the possible need for an Ad-Hoc Rate Committee ensued. Director Cousins made a motion to Adopt the Fiscal Year 21/22 Budget Assumptions and District Goals as presented. Director Gant 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

President Rourke appointed Director Gant and Director Johnson to an Ad-hoc Rate Committee. The Committee agreed to meet in June and requested that a Discussion Item be added to the Agenda for the June 10, 2021 meeting.

d. Review and Approve the District's Renewable Portfolio Policy

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to keep the current Renewable Portfolio Policy without any changes. 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

8. Reports

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update

Mr. Hauser provided an update on the wildfire mitigation efforts which included the District's progress on inspections and vegetation management activity.

b. General Managers Reports:

• Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that the projected completion date is still February of 2022, and provided some feedback following a recent meeting with Congressman Huffman relative to the Land Exchange.

• Power Outages

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Outage Summary (attached and incorporated herein) with the Board and provided additional information on the recent widespread outage affecting Weaverville, Junction City, Douglas City, Lewiston and Hayfork. Mr. Lethbridge advised that the District would be setting reclosers to "One Shot" effective June 1, 2021. Setting reclosers to "One Shot" improves safety fire, but increases outages.

• Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that there is nothing new to report on BANC.

• Right-of-Way (ROW) Project Update

Mr. Hauser reported that the Right-of-Way Project remains on track and that the CalFire Grant Application for implementation of the work will be submitted on May 19, 2021.

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

Trent Construction is expecting to pour concrete on May 14, 2021 for the tower and the building. The WAPA Fiber may be connected to the District office as soon as June of 2021. Staff is working with the District's federal lobbyist, Susan Stohr on potential broadband funding. There is a possibility that the District could facilitate broadband deployment in the area.

- Trinity Public Utilities District – 40th Anniversary Celebration
Mr. Hauser requested input from the Board relative to the District's 40th Anniversary Celebration. May 2022 was suggested and the Board concurred on the schedule. Ms. Sheetz advised she would reach out to Walter Robb regarding the proposed schedule.
- Surplus
Mr. Hauser advised that the District will receive approximately \$80,000 from J.J. Kane Auctioneers for the recently auction surplus items.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee
No Report

- Ad-hoc Mission Statement Committee
Director Gant shared a draft mission statement with the Board. She requested that the Board Members review it and provide feedback at the next Board Meeting to guide the discussion. Director Morris advised that they would appreciate the feedback from other Board Members.

d. Board Member Reports

Director Johnson reported that he was unable to attend the first LAFCO meeting.

9. Discussion Items

None

10. Communications Received

Correspondence from Mountain Chapel thanking the District for Community Investment work was received.

Correspondence from Jim Aven dated May 12, 2021 (attached and incorporated herein) was distributed to the Board.

11. Meetings and/or Workshops

Ms. Sheetz will include the upcoming Northern California Power Agency meeting on the June Agenda.

11. Public Input

None

The Board took a brief recess at 4:20 p.m.

12. Closed Session

The Board entered into Closed Session at 4:31 p.m.

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel

One Potential Case

No reportable action.

b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Claimant: Alfred Baldocchi and Jean Baldocchi

No reportable action.

13. Adjournment

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



Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: _____
Richard Morris, Clerk