

Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
December 8, 2022

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

Board Present: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nicholas Goulette, Andrew Johnson,
Michael Rourke

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Julie Catanese, Sarah Sheetz, David
DeLange, James Aven

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

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Ms. Sheetz advised that Items 5a and 5b had been amended to properly document the attendance at the Special Meeting and the Regular Meeting on November 10, 2022. Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. Administer Oath of Office to Board Members Mike Rourke and Nick Goulette

Ms. Sheetz administered the Oath of Office to Board Members Elect Mike Rourke and Nick Goulette.

4. Public Input

None

5. Consent Calendar

Director Goulette made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Special Board Meeting November 10, 2022
- b. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting November 10, 2022
- c. Validate Bills of November, 2022
- d. Approve Financial Reports for October, 2022

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

6. Action Items

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar
None

- b. Accept Auditors' Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2022, as prepared by Baker, Tilly, Virchow, Krauss, LLP (Baker Tilly)
Bethany Ryers, Baker Tilly Partner, presented the Auditor's Draft Report for Fiscal Year 2022. Ms. Ryers advised that she is part of the Energy and Utility Team at Baker Tilly.

The team is made up of more than 60 employees who help with audits and consulting services for municipal utilities. Ms. Ryers advised this is a niche market, and that the team is versed in governmental accounting standards as well as public power and public utilities. Ms. Ryers advised the Board that Baker Tilly had identified a material weakness in the Fiscal Year 2022 Audit due to grant revenue that was approved by the issuing agency during Fiscal Year 2022, but deposited by the District in Fiscal Year 2023. Ms. Catanese explained that the deficiency was due to a timing issue, as it is the District's practice to report grant revenues upon receipt of funds, rather than approval, as it can be difficult to predict when funds will be released by the granting agencies. Ms. Ryers concurred, and advised that the deficiency was material due to the amount of funding. Director Goulette inquired what would differentiate a material weakness and a deficiency? Ms. Ryers advised that the auditors review any deficiency, and then consideration is given to the potential impact to the financial statements, and the dollar amount may raise it to the level of a material weakness. Ms. Ryers also added that the District implemented a new Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncement in connection with Leases. She explained the commonality of reporting a material weakness the year any new GASB pronouncement is implemented and that the last time the District reported one was in 2017. Further that this did not impact the Auditors' opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District as of June 30, 2022 and 2021.

Ms. Ryers thanked staff for their responsiveness and cooperation during the Audit process. Director Cousins made a motion to Accept the Auditors' draft Report for Fiscal Year 2022. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

c. Award Bid Schedule No. 22-B3 to Silver Top Tree Services, Inc. for a three-year term, with two one (1) year options to extend

Mr. DeLange reviewed the report with the Board. Following a brief discussion regarding pricing Director Goulette made a motion to Award Bid No. 22-B3 to Silver Top Tree Services, Inc., and Authorize the General Manager to execute the Contract as presented. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson, Mike
Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

d. Approve Contract with Susan Stohr for Federal Lobbying Services for Calendar Years 2023-2024 in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 per year

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to approve the agreement as presented and authorize the General Manager to execute the Professional Services Contract with Susan Stohr. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

e. Ratify No Change to Rate Schedule 10 – Public Benefit Discount Amount

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board, advising that State law requires utilities to collect a tax of 2.85% of customers billed usage amount and then set aside the funds for specific uses for public benefit. The District utilizes the funds for low income discounts, rebate programs, the purchase of livestock at the Junior Livestock Auction, which is then donated to low income seniors through the Roderick Senior Center and the Trinity County Food Bank. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to ratify no change to Rate Schedule 10, and to maintain the Public Benefit Discount at 20% of the customers billed amount for Calendar Year 2023. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

f. Ratify No Change to Rate Schedule 16 – Project Agreement No. 1 Surcharge

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board, advising that the repayments for the Hospital Loan by the County should be complete in the first quarter of 2023. Following a discussion, Director Goulette made a motion to ratify no change to Rate Schedule 16 – Project Agreement No. 1 Surcharge. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

g. Adopt Resolution Number 22-13, Designation of Applicant's Agent for Non-State Agencies

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Johnson made a motion to Adopt Resolution 22-13 Designating staff as the District Agent(s) for Non-State Agencies as presented. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Amanda Barragar -Aye
Alex Cousins -Aye
Nick Goulette -Aye
Andy Johnson -Aye
Mike Rourke -Aye

h. Approve Contract with Evergreen Job & Safety Training in the amount of \$28,364 for Calendar Year 2023

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Professional Services Contract with Evergreen Job & Safety Training for a not-to-exceed cost of \$28,364 and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

i. Election of Officers of the Trinity Public Utilities District Board of Directors for Calendar Year 2023

Director Cousins made a motion to nominate the same slate of officers, which includes:

President, Mike Rourke
Vice-President, Alex Cousins
Clerk, Andy Johnson

The nominees accepted the nominations. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Amanda Barragar	-Aye
Alex Cousins	-Aye
Nick Goulette	-Aye
Andy Johnson	-Aye
Mike Rourke	-Aye

7. Reports:

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update

Mr. DeLange reviewed the report with the Board, advising that Fault Tamer installation has been added as an additional reporting metric. The District's Troubleman typically completes this task, but that crews will occasionally complete it if there is other work on the pole. Mr. DeLange stated that he is pleased with Silver Top's performance through the year and that they removed a significant number of trees and worked well with the District's crews through storms and fires.

b. Presentation – Aerial Right of Way Flights

Mr. DeLange provided a presentation demonstrating the District's drone capabilities to document vegetation in its rights of way, and perform both visual and infrared inspections on its infrastructure as part of its Wildfire Mitigation efforts. A discussion ensued regarding the presentation. The Board thanked Mr. DeLange for the presentation.

c. General Managers Reports:

• Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment for the Sky Ranch parcel is almost complete. He visited the site earlier in the week and the crew advised that they had not detected anything of concern. A report should be coming shortly. An appraisal will be prepared upon receipt of the required description from the United States Forest Service for the yellow book appraisal. Director Cousins inquired as to how the Title clean-up was going. Mr. Hauser advised that the Bureau of Land Management seemed satisfied with the progress.

• Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser advised that there is not a lot to report on BANC. He advised that while the District is not a part of the Energy Imbalance Market (EIM), the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are. He stated that WAPA is seeing some financial benefit from participation in the EIM because of the value of hydroelectric power. He advised that BANC is on a path to join the Day Ahead Market and that WAPA and Reclamation should be able to do well in that market.

- Power Outages

Mr. Hauser highlighted an outage on November 9, 2022, that affected 824 customers for just over 8 hours in the North County. Crews reported that the wire fell off an insulator and caught a pole on fire in a difficult location just north of the TNI substation near Trinity Dam. The pole replacement took a significant amount of time, and due to the location, the back-up feed under Trinity Lake could not be utilized. Mr. Hauser also advised that the Forest Glen Substation was de-energized on November 28, 2022 to safely allow logging operations near the Forest Glen Circuit. The work being done is a result of the August Complex Fire in 2020. Due to the extended nature of the outage, the District is providing a reimbursement credit to customers to offset the expense of fuel spent on generators. Half of the customers in Forest Glen have been restored, and the other half will be restored upon completion of the work. Customers have been very patient.

- Right-of-Way (ROW) Project Update

Mr. Hauser advised that he anticipates that the Environmental Impact Report for the ROW Project may be released in April of 2023. He advised that GEOSi is completing some additional GIS work for WAPA and for the District. Mr. Hauser also advised that an Amendment to the Aspen Contract to address the Visual Analysis requested by the United States Forest Service is forthcoming. Director Cousins inquired if there is language to allow for undergrounding of infrastructure in the document. Mr. Hauser advised that the agency's are advocating for undergrounding and that it will be allowed.

- Solar Exemption

Mr. Hauser reminded the Board that three years ago the District advocated on behalf of residents in the District's Service Territory for an exemption from the rooftop solar mandate adopted by the California Energy Commission (CEC). The District is now working with CEC to staff to continue to the exemption and also to exempt Trinity County from similar requirements for multi-family and commercial construction. The CEC concluded in 2019 that the mandate was not cost effective in the District's Service Territory due to Trinity PUD's low rates.

- 2023 Meeting Calendar

The Board was provided with the 2023 Meeting Calendar.

- Board Member Photographs – January 12, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Sheetz advised that Board Member photographs are scheduled for January 12, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.

d. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

No report

- Ad-hoc Public Communications Committee

No report

e. Board Member Reports

Director Barragar reported that she had met with Mr. Hauser and thanked staff for compiling documents for her.

Director Cousins reported that the Trinity River Lumber Mill (Mill) is conducting a lifecycle analysis of the lumber fits into sustainability. He advised that Mill is working with Danco Builders out of Arcata on the construction of a sustainable building and

that Trinity PUD electricity has a role, as the power provided to by the District is 100 percent carbon free.

8. Discussion Items

None

9. Communications Received

- The District received a correspondence from the Trinity Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament Director thanking it for its support of the 52nd Annual Tournament.
- The District received correspondence from the Trinity County Fair thanking it for its support of two large projects being undertaken at the Fair Grounds.

10. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. California Municipal Utilities Association Capitol Day
Sheraton Grand, Sacramento, CA
February 6, 2023
- b. American Public Power Association – 2023 Legislative Rally
Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC
February 27 – March 1, 2023
- c. California Municipal Utilities Association Annual Conference
Rancho Bernardo Inn
17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive
San Diego, CA 92128
April 16 – 18, 2023
- d. Northwest Public Power Association – Annual Conference
Anchorage, AK
May 14-17, 2023

Mr. Hauser requested that Board Members advise Ms. Sheetz if they would like to attend the upcoming meetings and/or workshops.

The Board took a brief recess at 3:50 p.m., and entered into closed session at 4:00 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session at 4:04 p.m. and reported the following:

11. Closed Session

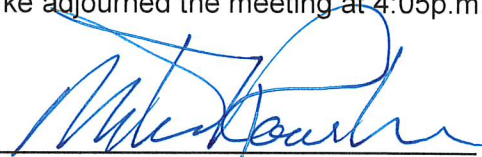
- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel- Existing Litigation
Claimant: Jean and Alfred Baldocchi
No Reportable Action
- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
No Reportable Action

12. Public Input

None

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 4:05p.m.



Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: 

Andrew Johnson, Clerk