

**Trinity Public Utilities District**  
**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD**  
**January 30, 2024**

Location: Redding Rancheria Trinity Health Center Community Room  
81 Arbuckle Court, Weaverville, California

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

Board Absent: Nicholas Goulette

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Sarah Sheetz, Julie Catanese, Jill Cox, Kent Cox

**1. President Rourke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.**

**2. Approval of the Agenda Order**

Director Barragar made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

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

**3. Presentation and Public Hearing to Consider Rate Restructuring**

Mr. Hauser provided a presentation on the proposed Rate restructuring.

President Rourke Opened the Public Hearing at 5:39 p.m.

Director Barragar inquired if the purpose of the rate restructuring was to improve reserve projections for one year. Mr. Hauser confirmed that was correct, stating that while Staff anticipates that power costs will decrease, it is still very difficult to make budget projections due to current inflationary pressures.

Trinity County Supervisor Jill Cox surmised that while yes, the District needs the rate increase, the cost of power for Trinity PUD customers is still low in comparison with our neighbor utilities. Mr. Hauser advised that there is no risk of losing the District's status as the lowest cost in the State.

Director Johnson inquired about the District's cost for wholesale Central Valley Project power relative to neighboring utilities. Mr. Hauser responded that the District's current estimated cost is \$0.0344/kWh, neighboring utilities have the same base rate but pay 30-40% more due to Restoration Fund expenses, which the District does not pay as we are an area of Origin for Central Valley Project water and power.

Supervisor Cox inquired what is included in the Debt Service category. Ms. Catanese advised the 2010 Bonds and the Umpqua Loan payments are included.

Director Cousins inquired about the \$15,000,000 in capital improvements to serve new load. Mr. Hauser advised that the District has made considerable investments in infrastructure improvements to support cannabis cultivation. The hope would be to utilize those assets, but the load seems to have topped out in 2021 and has been declining since that time. The District believes load is stabilizing.

Director Johnson inquired if pole replacements were included in the \$15,000,000 capital improvements figure. Mr. Hauser replied that pole replacements were not included.

President Rourke inquired about the condition of the 60kV line between Weaverville and Hayfork. Mr. Hauser advised that some sections have been reconductored, and that it is a difficult project to undertake because it means many 8-12 hour outages for Hayfork.

Supervisor Cox inquired about the potential for a Community Choice Aggregation District (CCA) to lower costs for downriver and south county customers. Mr. Hauser advised that it is something the County could spearhead, although there would be no benefit for Trinity PUD, and limited benefit for PG&E customers in those areas, as PG&E continues to change its rate structure to limit the benefits of CCAs.

Director Johnson inquired about the potential for the District to put in infrastructure to serve more customers. Mr. Hauser responded that Staff is currently working on a conceptual estimate to serve the Trinity Pines/Post Mountain area, but it is unclear if the area would like service and the regulatory hurdles are significant. Director Cousins suggested that Supervisor Cox convene with her counterparts at the United States Forest Service to begin the discussion about streamlining the regulatory process if it is a goal of the County to have the area served.

President Rourke Closed the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

/s/ Michael Rourke  
Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: /s/ Andrew Johnson  
Andrew Johnson, Clerk