

**Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

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, Mike Garcia, Julie Catanese, Sarah
Sheetz, David DeLange and James Aven

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

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

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. Public Input

Mr. Aven reported that the consumption on his Tesla Model 3 is equivalent to approximately 128 mpg, and that he estimates the expense of going to Redding and back at approximately \$3.20.

4. Consent Calendar

Director Goulette requested that Items 4c. and 4d. be pulled. Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar absent Items 4c. and 4d. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting January 11, 2024
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting January 30, 2024
- c. ~~Validate Bills of January, 2024~~
- d. ~~Approve Financial Reports for December, 2023~~
- e. Approve Minutes of the Special Meeting January 30, 2024

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

5. Action Items

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar
4c. Validate Bills of January, 2024

Director Goulette inquired about the Sierra Receivables Management Collection Services item on the Paid Bills list. Ms. Sheetz advised that the District utilizes Sierra Receivables on accounts when it has been unsuccessful in obtaining payment from a customer, but maintains the uncollectable under the customer's name until it is resolved, and that Customers must resolve uncollectable accounts prior to service being re-established. Accounts sent to Sierra Receivables are

typically those of customers who have moved out of the area. Sierra Receivables charges a collection fee of thirty-five percent for new referrals upon receipt of payment and follows regulatory procedures for collections.

4d. Financial Reports, December 2023

Director Goulette inquired about the “Unrestricted reserves divided by one year projected O&M expenses” ratio and the “Debt service coverage ratio” on page 4 of the Financial Reports, advising it is unclear what the target ratios are. Ms. Catanese advised that the District is required to keep the Debt Service Coverage Ratio at 1.25 due to bond covenants, and that the District Goals and Objectives, Goal #5 states that the District will Maintain Reserves in the amount of 6-months or more of Operations and Maintenance Expenses, excluding power costs. Director Goulette requested that the target ratio and rationale be added to future Financial Reports.

Director Cousins made a motion to validate Bills of January, 2024, and approve Financial Reports for December, 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

6. Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider Rate Restructuring

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

President Rourke opened the Public Hearing at 2:15 p.m.

Director Barragar inquired if it is the Wholesale Power Charge or the Energy Charge that will be adjusted when the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) adjusts the cost of power. Mr. Hauser advised that the Wholesale Power Charge will be adjusted up or down based on the cost of power. The initial Wholesale Power Charge will be \$0.0344 effective February 11, 2024, if the Board approves the Rate Restructuring.

Director Johnson inquired if the Board would conduct a rate hearing each time the Wholesale Power Charge is adjusted. Mr. Hauser advised that the adjustments are built into Rate Schedule No. 18, so that each time WAPA adjusts the cost of power, the Wholesale Power Charge is adjusted as well with no additional rate hearing required.

Director Cousins inquired if Staff had received calls or comments about the proposed restructuring. Mr. Hauser advised that Staff had received one call, from a customer offering support for the restructuring. Director Cousins inquired about how the rate hearing had been publicized. Mr. Hauser advised that there were legal notices in the Trinity Journal, as well as a larger advertisement for the January 30, 2024 and February 8, 2024 meetings, and that the Trinity Journal had run two articles on the topic in the weeks leading up to the meetings. The January 30, 2024 meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. to encourage participation by customers who aren't available during the District's regular meeting time, and electronic participation was offered.

Director Cousins requested that Staff include information about the new rates on the March 2024 bills.

There being no additional comments, President Rourke closed the Public Hearing at 2:26 p.m.

Director Goulette made a motion to Adopt Ordinance 24-01, amending Rate Schedules 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 and 20 Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	– aye
Mike Rourke	– aye
Andy Johnson	– aye
Nick Goulette	– aye
Amanda Barragar	– aye

Director Cousins made a motion to Adopt Resolution 24-01, Amending the Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees and Charges. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	– aye
Mike Rourke	– aye
Andy Johnson	– aye
Nick Goulette	– aye
Amanda Barragar	– aye

7. Reports:

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update

Mr. DeLange reviewed the January Report with the Board, advising that Crews were very active in the month of January and completed 41 Work Orders, which is more than the number completed during the third quarter of 2023. Mr. DeLange stated that spending on proactively managing vegetation around conductors has reduced outages and overtime expenses. Mr. Hauser reminded the Board that there was a significant storm in mid-January that in the past, may have required mutual aid, but that District crews were able to handle it without outside assistance, in large part because the damage from trees falling on lines was less significant than it has been in the past.

Mr. DeLange advised that the Cal Fire Conservation Camp Crews will be working on six miles of Right of Way in the coming weeks.

Director Johnson inquired about the GO128 Underground Inspections on the Report. Mr. DeLange advised it is a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recommendation for underground facilities, including splice boxes and underground transformers. The District is not subject to CPUC oversight, but voluntarily follows this recommendation.

Director Cousins inquired if Staff could provide a report or graph showing spending on line clearing vs. spending on overtime and look at it year over year to see which is more efficient. Mr. DeLange advised it would be helpful to add customer outage

minutes to that report as well. Mr. Hauser advised that weather is the wildcard when it comes to overtime and outages.

President Rourke inquired if the District provides mutual aid to other utilities in need? Mr. Garcia advised that Sacramento Municipal Utilities District has recently reached out, but that the District has a line truck/bucket truck out of service, which would leave only one crew available within the Service Territory.

Director Cousins inquired if there were any final cost reports from PG&E on the undergrounding work they did on Highway 299. Mr. DeLange advised that there is still a large range, from approximately \$2.8 million per mile to \$4.5 million per mile, but that \$3 million per mile is a good estimate to use on average terrain. Trinity County has some of the toughest terrain. Mr. Hauser stated that it is also not likely that PG&E was required to perform an environmental analysis, as the work took place in an existing road easement.

b. General Managers Reports:

i. Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that appraisals are complete for each parcel, and have been requested, but have not yet been shared with the District.

ii. Right-of-Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser advised that as sections of the documents are completed they are being shared with the Agencies for comment.

iii. Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser advised that work on the Energy Day Ahead Market continues to move slowly, primarily due to concerns on Governance from potential out of State participants.

iv. Power Outage Summary – January 2024

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board advising that most outages were due to maintenance. The District has experienced a relatively mild storm season to date.

v. Re-initiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation (ROC on LTO) of the Central Valley Project

Mr. Hauser advised that the Bureau of Reclamation has not yet scheduled another meeting. He recently attended a Science Advisory Board that is looking at the history of Restoration efforts and operation of the Central Valley Project, advising that many power customers provided comments.

vi. California Assembly Bill 1918 (AB 1918)

Mr. Hauser reported that Assembly Member Wood has introduced AB 1918, which, if passed, would provide a permanent exemption to the residential and commercial rooftop solar mandate for District Customers.

vii. Netfile – Form 700's

Ms. Sheetz reported that the District has applied for electronic filing of the Fair Political Practices Commissions annual Statements of Economic Interest, which would allow Board Members to complete the required forms at their own convenience and submit them electronically. The due date for Special District filings is April 2, 2024, and staff anticipates that the application process will take approximately 4 weeks.

viii. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Funding

Mr. Hauser reported that John Driscoll in Congressman Huffman's office advised that the District has been awarded \$1.6 million in Public Assistance for the Winter 2023 Storms. Staff has not yet received notice directly from FEMA.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee
None

d. Board Member Reports

Director Barragar recently attended the California Municipal Utilities Association Capitol Day and found it informative. She was also recently in touch with Lucy Kerhoulas of Cal Poly Humboldt regarding the forest health study that has been undertaken, who advised more information may be available in late summer 2024.

Director Cousins advised he would attend the upcoming Northwester Public Power Association Board Meeting on February 23, 2024, and the Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City in May 2024.

Director Goulette reported that the previously mentioned Upper Trinity Watershed Partnership intends to launch a proposal for fuels treatments along the Highway 3 corridor running from Weaverville to North end of County.

8. Discussion Items

None

9. Communications Received

None

10. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. Golden State Power Cooperative Capitol Day
Sacramento, CA
February 21, 2024

Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz plan to attend.

- b. American Public Power Association – 2024 Legislative Rally
Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC
February 26-28, 2024

Director Barragar, Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz plan to attend.

- c. California Municipal Utilities Association Annual Conference
Monterey Marriott, Monterey, CA

April 7-9, 2024

Ms. Sheetz plans to attend.

- d. Northwest Public Power Association – Annual Conference
Salt Lake City, UT
May 12-15, 2024
Director Cousins plans to attend.
- e. Golden State Power Cooperative – Annual Conference
Sacramento, CA
September 23, 2024
- f. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association – Region 7/9 Meeting
Sacramento, CA
September 24-26, 2024
- g. Northern California Power Agency Annual Conference
Napa, CA
September 24-27, 2024

11. Public Input
None

The Board took a brief recess at 3:01 p.m. and entered into Closed Session at 3:08 p.m.

12. Closed Session

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Claimant: Jean and Alfred Baldocchi
No reportable action

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

/s/ Michael Rourke

Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: */s/Andrew Johnson*

Andrew Johnson, Clerk