

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ONTONAGON COUNTY R.E.A.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD AT 500 JAMES K PAUL STREET  
ONTONAGON MICHIGAN

MINUTES  
March 15, 2024 9:30 A.M.

1. President Hodges called the regular meeting to order at 9:33.
2. Roll Call – Bill Hodges, Calvin Koski, Randy Myhren, Ann Gasperich, Jack Lehto and Mike Gaunt with Mike Urbis via zoom.

Others Present: General Manager Eugene Soumis, Dallas Aho and Attorney Pat Greeley, via zoom.

3. Member comment session – Gasperich reported on a member contact for information on the next public meeting. The next member meeting is in June, the Annual Meeting. Each Board meeting has an item on the agenda for Member Comments and he is welcome to attend. The Board meeting is held on the third Friday of the month at 9:30. The agenda item is a member comment period, not a time for questions and answers. If he has questions, ask him to submit them and we can get responses back to him.
4. **M/S Gaunt/Lehto** to approve the agenda, all in favor, motion passed.
5. **M/S Myhren/Koski** to approve the minutes of the January 19, Regular Board Meeting
6. **M/S Myhren/Koski** to approve minutes of the February 1, Special Board Meeting
7. **M/S Myhren/Koski** to approve the minutes of the February 16, Regular Board Meeting
8. Attorney Report – a settlement offer has been made regarding the personnel issue.
9. Operations Report (see attached) Update 2.1 The truck is back on line this week, 2.2 The Vermeer will be back in service in the next ten days or so, 2.3 there has been little progress in eliminating the excess vehicles from inventory. Koski reported he has knowledge of a potential purchaser for the bucket truck. He will be notified as when the process continues.
10. Metering Update (see attached) Update – The meter exchange is now at 75% complete.
11. Managers' Report (see attached) Eugene reported on his contact with NRECA as to the Time Interest Earning Ratio(TIER). He is waiting to hear on the questions posed regarding the TIER being a rollover number or a restart each year.
12. Financial Report
  1. Financial Statements for period ended 1/31/2024
  2. PSCR Over/Under Collection for period ended 02/29/2024
  3. RUS Form 219 Inventory of Work Orders for period ended 12/31/2023 Inv # 0124-1 \$3,942.60 and Inv # 1223-1 \$13,467.34 for a total of \$17,409.94,
  4. List of Bills – February 2024

**M/S Koski/Myhren** to accept the reports and pay the bills as presented, discussion, Gasperich stated it was unnecessary for the board to receive a copy of the payroll and monthly bills, Koski stated he desired to maintain the report distribution as is, all in favor to accept and pay the bills, passed.

13. Business Requiring Board Action
  1. Board Signatures for January 19, Regular Meeting Minutes
  2. Board Signatures for February 1, Special Meeting Minutes
  3. Board Signatures for February 16, Regular Meeting Minutes
  4. Board Policy Approvals
    - i) Policy 500-2 (Hands-free Driving Addition)
    - ii) Policy 400-4 (Drug Free Workplace)
    - iii) Policy 600-1 through 1100-1 (Individually Approve or Table)

**M/S Gasperich/Myhren** for Gaunt to make minor corrections, update the date reviewed and submit all to the Attorney for review, all in favor, motion passed.

14. Other Business
  1. MECA Symposium Update – Gasperich, Gaunt, Hodges and Soumis will attend. Next year other Board members will attend.

2. Billing Clerk Staffing Update – Offer has been verbally submitted and accepted. Offer letter is being prepared for official confirmation. Discussion followed regarding a physical exam prior to hire. This will be placed on the April agenda.
3. Wolverine Wholesale Power Contract Update – Soumis and Hodges participated in an initial meeting. Other providers will be contacted. In the past, other cooperative providers did not respond to our request.

15. Around the Table Discussion

Gasperich commented on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission change in requirements for Hydro generation inspections due to the Oroville Dam Spillway incident in California.

Myhren – Nothing

Urbis – do we have a current employee on a restricted license? Yes, we are following the Union contract. Further discussion on policy vs contract, April Agenda item.

Koski – Nothing

Gaunt asked we place the items from the strategic plan session on the agenda so next year we have looked at the items and can report accordingly.

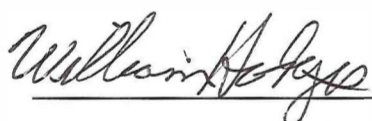
Hodges spoke to the response demand webinar held. We should have the aggregator conversation placed on the April agenda as well.

16. Executive Session called by the President at 11:07.

Returned to regular session at 12:41. No action taken.

17. Next Meeting Date: April 19, 2024

18. Adjournment by Myhren at 12:42 sine die.



William Hodges, President



Mildred Ann Gasperich, Secretary

We the undersigned Directors of the Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association do hereby confirm, approve and ratify in all respects the above minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 16, 2024.

