

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 17, 2023 9:30 A.M.

1. President Hodges called the regular meeting to order at 9:30.
2. Roll Call – President Hodges via teams, Vice President Koski, Treasurer Myhren, Secretary Gasperich via teams, Directors Urbis via phone, Gaunt via teams and Lehto.
Others Present: Attorney Greeley, and General Manager (GM) Soumis.
3. Member comment session - None
4. Approval of the Agenda **M/S Gaunt/Lehto**, passed.
5. Executive Session - None
6. Approve Minutes of the February 17, 2023 Board meeting **M/S Koski/Myhren**, passed.
7. Attorney Report -- Attorney Greeley and Mark Urbis, Line Superintendent are working with L'Anse Township regarding four pole and collector locations.
8. Metering Update – Mark Urbis provided the update. Total active member meters are 4934. 161 new Vision meters have been installed, bringing the total to 1,487. Pelkie is now complete. The remote cabins throughout our service area will be installed as access permits. Urbis worked through the troubleshooting of the automatic reboot of the South Agate collector. Ontonagon County Telephone Company was able to determine the problem was not related to REA equipment and corrected it immediately. This collector is now at 100%.
9. Line Superintendent's Report – Mark Urbis gave the monthly progress and safety report. All Line crews are either working on pole replacements or work plan jobs. The Vegetation crews removed 642 danger trees, replied to the three member reported tree tickets and continue to conduct scheduled Right-of-way clearing. In February four new services were connected and 10 were transferred. An update on the status of the Utility Truck for Houghton was discussed as the availability of a second mower.
10. Manager's Report
 - 10.1 Financial Statements for periods ended 01/31/2023 were reviewed;
 - 10.2 PSCR Over/Under Collection for period 02/28/2023 was discussed;
 - 10.3 List of Bills for February was presented;
 - 10.4 Special Equipment Summary (SES) for January, none reported. RUS Form 219 Inventory of Work Orders for period ended 12/31/2023 for \$70,693.41 were presented. **M/S Myhren/Gaunt** to accept the reports of the Attorney, Line Superintendent, Manager, approve the payment of the bills, and RUS work orders, motion passed.
11. Business Requiring Board Action –
 - 11.1. **M/S Gaunt/Lehto** to allow the General Manager to conduct transactions and independent reports with on-line access with Co-Bank, and with the Directors permission, electronically sign necessary documents in the course of conducting business.
 - 11.2. BOD Per diem discussion, **M/S Lehto/Gaunt to Table till a** complete review of existing notations within the by-laws and policies is conducted.
12. Other Business
 - 12.1 Director Elections – Ewen Trout Creek and Boston Districts are up for election this year. GM Soumis will contact Country Lines.
 - 12.2 Board Meeting Attendance Policy, M/S Myhren/Gaunt to Table till by-laws and policies are reviewed.
 - 12.3 Director School Discussion M/S Myhren/Lehto to table until April

- 12.4 Energy Optimization Update – Notice is on the Website, and reminders will be placed on the monthly bills. GM Soumis will review the current contract with WPPI and provide the Board of Directors the list of pros and cons.
- 12.5 Website and Billing Cooperative News – Changes are working! GM Soumis is able to track activity on a spreadsheet.,
- 12.6 Board Policy Progress update (Gaunt & Lehto) Mike cross walked the policies. A meeting set with the GM for review.
- 12.7 Upcoming Vehicle Capital Expense – Superintendent Urbis presented the areas of concern with the continual backlog in building utility vehicles, resulting in delivery delays. He has worked with the same company for a number of years and isn't confident in their ability to provide the equipment the line crews need. He will expand his search and report back. Capital Outlay/Expenses were discussed. GM Soumis will have further information for April
- 12.8 ARC Power will conduct a presentation during the next meeting on April 21, at 9:30. The contract with Wolverine power expires in 2024. The demand charge is currently high, and an increase is expected.

13. Around the Table Discussion


- 13.1. Gasperich requested the financial statements, PSCR/ Bills, SES and RUS be a Financial Report and not the Managers Report. She would like to see a separate Managers Report. She also inquired as to the GANT chart status for the metering and wondered about the status of the Prior Manager as a contract worker.
- 13.2. Myhren talked about the remote Audit, and asked to have the auditors contact him in the next few weeks.
- 13.3. Koski commended GM Soumis for his timely and professional manor when contacting a member regarding a reported outage. Good Job!
- 13.4. Gaunt – In person meetings are always preferred.
- 13.5. Hodges – spoke to Director Education, in person or online and the compensation. He will review the by-laws and policies and possibly set up a schedule for per diems.

14. Next Meeting Date: April 21, 2023

15. Adjournment Myhren Sine Die at 12:11

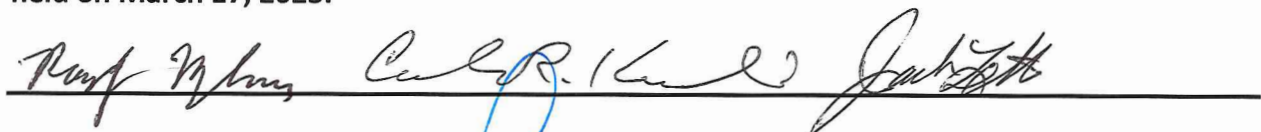


 William Hodges, President



 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 March 17, 2023.





 Being, all of the Directors of the Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association