

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

February 17, 2023 9:30 A.M.

1. President Hodges called the regular meeting to order at 9:30.
2. Roll Call – President Hodges, Vice President Koski, Treasurer Myhren, Secretary Gasperich, Directors Urbis, Gaunt and Lehto.
Others Present: Attorney Greeley, General Manager (GM) Soumis and Administrative Assistant Aho.
3. Member comment session - None
4. Approval of the Agenda with the addition of 11 F Member Growth **M/S Gasperich/Myhren**, passed.
5. Executive Session - None
6. Approve Minutes of the January 20, 2023 Board meeting **M/S Gaunt/Myhren**, passed.
7. Attorney Report -- Attorney Greeley is reviewing the Zoning Ordinance for L'Anse Township regarding wireless services. Greeley will assist GM Soumis in drafting a letter of acknowledgement in the hiring of the new Administrative Assistant Dallas Aho.
8. Metering Update – Mark Urbis provided the update. Of the total active member meters, 4934, 1326 have been installed. Ewen, Ontonagon, Trout Creek and Pelkie have been installed. Utility Billing Clerk Fay Hauswirth is updating member account information for the integration with the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) which requires a physical address with each meter, not the pole number. Urbis is also troubleshooting the automatic reboot of the system which intermittently drops collectors after each sequence.
9. Line Superintendent's Report – Mark Urbis gave the monthly progress and safety report. Road restrictions are on, and will be removed when the temperature drops again. Crews have been working to remove/disconnect transformers that are in-line on closed accounts. Six new services have been connected, one reconnected and 11 services transferred in January. First Aid and CPR were covered for the January Safety Training put on by Michigan Electric Co-op Association (MECA), next session will be on defensive driving in February.
10. Manager's Report
 - a) Financial Statements for periods ended 12/31/2022 were reviewed;
 - b) PSCR Over/Under Collection was discussed;
 - c) List of Bills was presented;
 - d) Special Equipment Summary (SES) for period ended 12/31/2022 in the amount of \$26,039.18 and the RUS Form 219 Inventory of Work Orders for period ended 11/30/2022 for \$71,276.66 were presented. **M/S Myhren/Koski** to accept the reports of the Attorney, Line Superintendent, Manager, approve the payment of the bills, SES and RUS work orders, motion passed.
11. Business Requiring Board Action - **M/S Gaunt Lehto** Check Signatories Motion - Bank signatories for Citizens Bank, Miners State Bank, and the Lake Superior Credit Union to remove Deborah Miles from the signatories list. (This was carried from December 2022 Board Meeting).
12. Other Business
 - a) Director School Review – President Hodges provided highlights from this first two sessions at his fall training. A few of the takeaways include: Trim Crews are vital, Diversity is Essential, the Seven Principles always need to be on the mind of each director with 'Members First' being primary, always let the data lead the

decisions, support and encourage pro and con discussion on all topics, watch the trends in the industry, and Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Training is highly recommended for each director to complete within the first few years of election.

- b) Board Policy Progress update (Gaunt & Lehto) Should have a complete wrap up in three months. Review by the committee, Attorney, approved and implemented by the Board. A whistle blower policy will also be reviewed.
- c) Cybersecurity policy update. Director Gaunt had to reschedule the meeting with GM Soumis and AA Aho to go over the lessons learned at the cybersecurity conference and create a policy to add to the existing policy manual.
- d) Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Cost of Services (Rate) study will begin on March 1, 2023 and run through August 31, 2023.
- e) CFC Fall Strategic Planning Session will be this fall. Date to be determined.
- f) Member Growth – Discussion on ways to expand our membership in fringe and outlying areas.

13. Around the Table Discussion

- a. Gasperich asked for the Director Per Diem be placed on the March agenda and to include adjustments for education, special meetings, and the use of video conferencing. She is also looking for an update on the contractual work with the prior GM Debbie Miles.
- b. Urbis asked for clarification on Directors talking with Directors outside of the regular meetings. Caution was advised.
- c. Koski stated He completely supports director education held in Michigan, where our legislators are. In the past free education has been made available. All Directors interested are encouraged to attend.
- d. Lehto suggested the return envelope sent to customers on AUTO Pay, be eliminated, as a cost savings measure. Also inquired about the status of the Utility Easements for servicing the Cooperatives power lines. Attorney Greeley replied most are utility easement though some maybe prescriptive rights.

14. Next Meeting Date: March 17, 2023

15. Adjournment Myhren Sine Die at 12:34

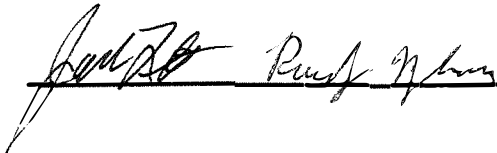


Calvin Koski, Vice President



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 17, 2023.



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