

**The Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association
The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
At 500 James K Paul Street, Ontonagon, MI**

On Friday, October 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. pursuant to call.

Directors present:

Wayne Heikkinen, Calvin Koski, Paul Koski, Jim Moore, George Rajala and Frances Wiideman. District 7 seat is empty. A quorum was present.

Others present:

Debbie Miles, General Manager and Theodore Greeley, Counsel.

No members appeared for the Member Comment Session.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Heikkinen seconded by Rajala. On a voice vote the motion passed, all ayes.

A motion by Rajala, seconded by Heikkinen to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2018 meeting; on a voice vote the motion passed, all ayes.

Greeley reported that (1) No progress has been made with the owner of the L'Anse shop property, (2) The Coop does not need to sign a Balancing Authority Agreement (contract) with WE Energies; however, we may work with WE Energies on a non-binding "Letter" of Agreement, (3) Neither candidate for the Lake Linden director seat could attend today's meeting. In light of Bouwkamp's willingness to step aside for Hodges' appointment to the board, Rajala proposed and Heikkinen supported the selection of Mr. William Hodges for the Lake Linden seat; all voted aye.

A motion to approve both the Line Superintendent's and Manager's Reports was made by Rajala, seconded by Paul Koski; on a voice vote the motion passed, all ayes.

A motion to approve the Special Equipment Summary in the amount of \$35,721.55 for the period ended 8/31/2018 was made by Wiideman and seconded by Paul Koski. On a voice vote the motion passed, all ayes.

A motion to approve the list of Bills and the Financial Report was made by Rajala and seconded by Paul Koski. On a voice vote the motion passed, all ayes.

The board learned that Line Supervisor, Bill Tucker, has set his retirement date as March 31, 2019 and the coop will be advertising for a replacement.

Ontonagon had given the Villages of L'anse and Baraga notice that they would discontinue maintenance for them as of January 31, 2019. The coop no longer has three linemen in that area and does not have the manpower to handle the villages. Wisconsin Public Power, of which both villages are members, has offered that service and will be advertising for two journeymen to cover that area. It is expected that at least one of our crew will be applying for a position with WPPI

due to the wage increase. We are already down one journeyman in the L'anse area.

Wiideman and Calvin Koski reported on their attendance of the Smart Utilities Summit in Tampa, Florida. Their expenses were paid by the Summit organizers but there is some question as to why Fran and Calvin were invited. Moore was upset to learn of this event after the fact and stated that perhaps an employee should be attending a technology exhibition for rural utilities such as this rather than directors. All were encouraged to inform the board of such events in a timely manner.

Rajala reported on his attendance of the Board Leadership Course held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He said it was intense, and that there is a new NRECA Governance Standard for coop boards, the adoption of which is going to be strongly encouraged. This BLC was sponsored by MECA.

Moore brought up the topic of the future of the coop, stating that the Coop should be dissolved and gave some of his reasoning. A vigorous and thoughtful discussion ensued. A couple rural utilities have recently expressed an interest in shared services with the Coop. The board decided to entertain *informal* visits from other organizations to hear their ideas on this concept.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Calvin Koski adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.



Calvin Koski, President



James Moore, 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 October 19, 2018.



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