

MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session November 19, 2020 with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER calling the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. JANINE RIFE DIDIER was scrivener. Board members in attendance were TERRY FROST, CATHY KOMBOL and BRETT MAXWELL. GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA were also present. Board members in attendance via conference call were BRAD ARNTZEN, JASON SWANZ, BOB EVANS, and CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, BRETT MAXWELL moved to approve it. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the October 29, 2020 general meeting and discussing them, BRETT MAXWELL moved their approval. CATHY KOMBOL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** The Board noted the regular time for member input relative to any issue of interest or importance to them. No member appeared.
5. **PLANNING.**
6. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** Financial and other monthly reports were presented to the Board for discussion. OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reviewed the October 31, 2020 operating report. HORACEK noted that since 2000 real estate taxes have increased 315 percent. HORACEK reported that the Payment Protection Program (PPP) documentation was submitted to Stockman Bank for review. It could take up to sixty days to hear whether the amount the co-op received through the PPP is forgiven. OFFICE MANAGER HORACEK proposed that the co-op continue its plan to retire capital credits in 2020. JANINE RIFE DIDIER presented the October 31, 2020 monthly ratios report.
7. **OPERATIONS REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that all meters served from the Kolin substation are being read by the new AMI system. RIKALA noted that five substations are not automatically sending the turtle meter readings into Landis+Gyr making the need for installing the new metering system more critical. Safety meetings have been on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will be rescheduled when it is feasible to do so. RIKALA reported that Fergus Electric had its first employee test positive and they are self-quarantined. Others have quarantined due to exposures, but all had tested negative.
8. **INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** No work orders were closed this month.
9. **POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** The Board reviewed the outage report prepared by JANINE RIFE DIDIER which covered power interruptions for January 2020-October 2020.
10. **BOARD POLICY 206 – BOARD MEMBER NOTIFICATION, DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH.** The Board reviewed Policy 206.
11. **BOARD POLICY 207 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES/MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE.** The Board reviewed Policy 207. After discussion, BOB EVANS moved to approve the policy as amended. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
12. **BOARD POLICY 208 – SCHOOL DISTRICT, CORPORATION, COMMUNITY CENTER OR OTHER NON-INDIVIDUAL ENTITIES VOTING AT ANNUAL MEETING.** The Board reviewed Policy 208.

- 13. REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL worked on several items of importance to the cooperative.
- 14. MANAGER'S REPORT.** MANAGER SWEENEY said that LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA suggested using local journeyman electricians to help change out meters for the AMI project. SWEENEY said that the co-op has an agreement with an electrician to begin changing out meters the week of November 30. SWEENEY reported that RIKALA had contacted answering service companies about the co-op's need to procure an after hour calling service. Currently, Fergus Electric staff continue to answer after hours calls on a weekly rotation. SWEENEY update the Board on the line patrol program telling them that the linemen will be able to create service orders and digitally document their progress using iPads. SWEENEY would like the line patrol program to get underway soon. SWEENEY noted that BLACK BUTTE COPPER MINE will provide the co-op with updates as they become available.
- 15. BASIN ANNUAL MEETING/MEMBERS MEETING.** BOB EVANS and MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Annual Meeting, which was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. SWEENEY reported that DISTRICT 10 BOARD MEMBER, PAUL BAKER will be the co-op's representative for the next three years.
- 16. PRECorp/MEMBERS 1ST.** PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER reviewed the November 17th Zoom video meeting he attended.
- 17. SAFETY MEETING.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that the safety meeting scheduled for November 18 was postponed due to Covid-19.
- 18. MECA BOARD MEETING.** TERRY FROST gave a short report on the virtual MECA Board Meeting he had attended.
- 19. MECA VOTING DELEGATE.** After a brief discussion, TERRY FROST moved to appoint BOB EVANS to represent TERRY FROST as the voting delegate at the December 1-2, 2020 MECA meeting. BRETT MAXWELL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 20. ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS.** No estate capital credits were presented.
- 21. DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS/NEW MEMBERS LIST.** The Board reviewed the delinquent accounts showing those that were paid in full and those that were still owing. A list of new members was also reviewed.
- 22. APPROVAL OF ADVANCE OF FUNDS.** After discussing the amount of funds available for advance through RUS and the current low interest rate to borrow funds, BOB EVANS moved to borrow three million dollars. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 23. CAPITAL CREDIT GENERAL RETIREMENT.** OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK proposed that on December 10, 2020, Fergus Electric retire capital credits for the years 1992, 1993, and 1994 totaling approximately \$992,447. After a period of discussion, BRETT MAXWELL moved to authorize the general retirement of capital credits for the years 1992, 1993, and 1994. CATHY KOMBOL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 24. OTHER BUSINESS.** None.
- 25. FUTURE MEETINGS.**
- a. PRECorp/Members 1st Board Meeting, December 15
 - b. FEC Board, December 17
 - c. Safety Meeting, TBD
 - d. Wellness Day, January 13
- 26. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.**

27. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** At 2:02 p.m.; BRETT MAXWELL moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

28. **GENERAL SESSION RESUMES.** At 2:17 p.m., BRETT MAXWELL moved to return to general session. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

29. **ADJOURNMENT.** PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

SECRETARY Brad Arntzen ATTEST: PRESIDENT Paul Descheemaeker