

**BUTLER RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.****BOARD OF TRUSTEES****April 28, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Butler Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Cooperative office, at 3888 Stillwell Beckett Road, Oxford, Ohio on April 28, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Tom McQuiston at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Board members present were: Tom McQuiston, David Evans, Butch Foster, Ron Kolb, Jay Hasbrook, Jim Meador, Bob Hoelle, Robert Spaeth, and Michael Tilton. Others present were Thomas Humbach, Attorney; Lee Geiger, Attorney; Tom Wolfenbarger, General Manager; and Julie Abbott, Director of Administration. Others presenting during the meeting were: Greg Phillips, Director of Corporate Services; Judie Persinger, Director of Accounting & Finance; Michael Murray, Director of Operations; Lisa Staggs Herrmann, Director of Member and Community Relations; Manager of Engineering, Charlie Young; and Adam Osborn, Manager of Safety and Compliance. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and an invocation by Robert Spaeth.

**RESOLUTION**

Tom McQuiston presented a resolution to Tom Humbach declaring April 28, 2021 as Thomas E. Humbach day and announcing the Thomas E. Humbach scholarship.

**COST OF SERVICE STUDY REPORT**

Jack Gaines, with JDG Consulting, joined the meeting virtually to report on the Rates and Cost of Service Study. Trustees appreciated the opportunity to hear the study information provided and the ability to ask questions. Jack presented three possible options for electric vehicle (EV) rates.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented electronically prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Ron Kolb, seconded by Mike Tilton that the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 31, 2021 be approved. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT****REVIEW STATEMENTS AND CHECKS WRITTEN**

The unaudited financial statements were presented to the Board by Judie Persinger. Bob Hoelle reviewed the checks written for the month of March. A motion was made by Jay Hasbrook, seconded by Bob Hoelle, that the past payment of bills be approved and the unaudited financial statements be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

**2015 – 2020 PROPERTY TAX REPORT**

Judie Persinger presented a report on the 2015 – 2020 Property Tax. (See Attached Copy)

**FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC INSURANCE**

Judie Persinger presented the Federated Rural Electric Exchange renewal premium comparison for 2021-2022. She provided an additional premium option to include Choice of Defense, in addition to last month's presentation. Butch Foster made a motion, with a second by Robert Spaeth, to accept the Federated Insurance renewal as amended to include the Choice of Defense option. Motion carried.

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

Charlie Young provided an update on the Tolbert substation and gave the latest information on the fiber project as well as new net metering systems. He reviewed monthly community solar production, and SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI reliability reports.

**SAFETY & COMPLIANCE REPORT**

Adam Osborn reviewed March Safety & Compliance activities which included field observations, one incident report, and one follow-up with a member. He reviewed the Safety Improvement Plan goals and activities and training for the month.

**OPERATIONS**

Mike Murray reported on the activities of the internal BREC crews for the month which included the replacement of several poles, installation of regulator station, security lights at Whitewater Trails Subdivision, and substation work. He provided a report on outages for the month of March.

**MEMBER SERVICES UPDATE**

Lisa Staggs Herrmann reviewed member issues and concerns with the Board. She announced Levi Grimm as the third-place scholarship winner (\$2,300) from the statewide competition. Lisa proposed changes to the current billing/prepayments of seasonal members. All seasonal members will be notified of the change. Lisa reported on the status of events for the summer including Hueston Woods fireworks, Family Day, Butler County Fair, and Golf Outing. The Board made the decision to cancel Family Day, due to limitations and COVID restrictions. A motion was made by David Evans, seconded by Robert Spaeth, to move forward with the Golf Outing on August 12. Motion carried. Lisa reviewed the process of the Annual Meeting and voting.

**\$50 BILL CREDIT WINNERS:**

Charles Myers  
Tim Bell

Melissa Mason  
Barney Sandlin

Dorthea M. Withrow

**CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATE**

Greg Phillips reported on a KnowBe4 phishing test and follow-up on previous red flags. He informed the Board of the replacement of an audio-visual upgrade scheduled for June in the Conference Center.

**VOIDED & NEW MEMBERSHIPS**

A motion was made by Mike Tilton, seconded by Robert Spaeth, to accept 82 members into the membership of the Cooperative for March and 60 new memberships in the month of April as of April 28, 2021. There were four voided memberships for March. Motion carried.

**CAPITAL CREDITS**

A motion was made by Robert Spaeth, seconded by Bob Hoelle, that the past payment of capital credits for 24 estates, totaling \$75,265.69 be approved. Motion carried.

**CAPITAL CREDITS SETOFFS**

A motion was made by Ron Kolb, seconded by Butch Foster, to approve six capital credits setoffs totaling \$2,899.54. Motion carried.

**BAD DEBTS WRITE-OFF**

A total of \$795.08 was submitted to the Board to be written-off for March. A motion was made by Bob Hoelle, seconded by Robert Spaeth, to write-off bad debts. Motion carried.

**MANAGER'S EXPENSE REPORT**

It was moved by Jay Hasbrook, seconded by Butch Foster, that the Manager's expense report for March in the amount of \$10.64 be approved. Motion carried.

**LEGAL UPDATE**

Tom Humbach reported on the dress rehearsal for the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will include members voting on Code of Regulations changes, Nominating Committee for 2021 and 2022, and the minutes from the previous meeting.

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT****BUCKEYE POWER INC.**

An electronic report was submitted to the Trustees prior to the meeting.

**STATEWIDE REPORT/NRECA BOARD**

Tom McQuiston reported on the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. regular monthly meeting. An electronic report was submitted to the Trustees prior to the meeting. Tom reported on the virtual NRECA board meeting held on April 15.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Jay Hasbrook, Butch Foster, and Tom Wolfenbarger attended the virtual Legislative Conference. They provided information on the issues discussed with aides to Warren Davidson, Steve Chabot, and Sherrod Brown.

**RESIDENT'S REPORT**

Tom McQuiston reported that OEC is planning to hold an in-person Summer Conference at the Hilton Polaris on August 9-10.

**SERVICE AWARDS**

Tom McQuiston presented service awards following lunch: Butch Foster is celebrating five years as a Trustee with the cooperative. Tom Humbach is celebrating a 40-year milestone as the cooperative's legal counsel.

**HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**

Julie Abbott reviewed member survey comments and a thank you note received for the linemen. She provided an update on training for the month of April along with Board education courses offered later in the year. Robert Spaeth made a motion, with a second by Butch Foster, to authorize attendance of those Trustees needing credit for continuing education classes offered at the statewide office December 2021 – February 2022. Motion carried.

Julie provided a report on staffing and milestone service awards presented to employees at the semi-annual employee meeting. Six Trustees are interested in attending the Cardinal Plant tour in September. A motion was made by Ron Kolb, with a second by Butch Foster, to approve the Trustees attendance. Motion carried.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Tom Wolfenbarger reported on activity on the roof, legislative conference, and the transition to net billing. He provided a report for the Board on strategic plan action items, which included a new employee advisory committee and an employee newsletter. Tom provided thoughts on the EV rates proposed by Jack Gaines earlier in the meeting.

Tom submitted an electronic copy of a manager's activities report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****CORRESPONDENCE**

Items of correspondence were received and reviewed by the Trustees.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Tom McQuiston adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David Evans, Secretary/Treasurer