


**GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2017
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees met in general session January 27, 2017 with VICE PRESIDENT DAVID DOVER calling the meeting to order at 10 a.m. VANGIE McCONNELL was scrivener. Other Board members present were BRAD ARNTZEN, PAUL DESCHEEMAER, TERRY FROST, JASON SWANZ and MIKE VLASTELIC. BOB EVANS joined by conference call. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and FINANCIAL ADVISOR JANINE RIFE DIDIER were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, TERRY FROST moved to approve it. MIKE VLASTELIC seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** The Board noted the regular time for member input relative to any issue of interest or importance to them. No members appeared.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of December 21, 2016 general meeting, JASON SWANZ moved to approve the minutes. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** An executive session convened at 10:30 a.m. and concluded at 11:30 a.m. CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL gave his report during the session.
6. **TINTINA COPPER MINE.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported on a January 20 meeting with Tintina's CEO JOHN SHANAHAN. Also attending were: DIRECTORS DAVID DOVER and MIKE VLASTELIC, MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, STAKING ENGINEERS GUY JOHNSON and MELANIE FORAN, and OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK. Several scenarios for a proposed power line were discussed. A System Impact Study is planned.
7. **COMMUNITY SOLAR DISCUSSION.** STAKING ENGINEER MELANIE FORAN and JANINE RIFE DIDIER reported on a Community Solar Basics seminar set for February 22, 2017 at the Community Center in Lewistown. MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY plans for the panels to be sold in March, April and May with the solar array to be built in August.
8. **MEMBERS 1ST AND PRECORP BOARD.** MIKE VLASTELIC and SCOTT SWEENEY reported on the January 17 meetings that took place in Sundance, Wyoming.
9. **BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE MEETING.** MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY reported on the January 18 – 19 Basin Managers Advisory Committee (MAC) that met in Bismarck, North Dakota.
10. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** Staff presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion. Included were the December operating report presented by OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and the December analysis of operating statistics presented by FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER.



11. **SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION WORK COMPLETED IN 2016.** In lieu of LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA's monthly operations report, a year-end summary of construction work completed prepared by STAKING ENGINEERS GUY JOHNSON and MONTE OBERT was reviewed.
12. **INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 583-583X for \$178,915.30 and 583-583X (A) for \$29,890.7, MIKE VLASTELIC moved to approve them. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
13. **SIGNAL PEAK, LLC AND EXPRESS PIPELINE.** MANAGER SWEENEY noted that the combined load factor for the 50Kv and 100Kv signal Peak Sub was 41.2%. Express Pipeline had a combined load factor of 65.3%
14. **ESTATE CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS.** The Board reviewed the January 2017 estate capital credit retirements of \$16,912.69 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. MIKE VLASTELIC moved to affirm the retirements and BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
15. **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR RUS FUNDING.** After discussion, TERRY FROST moved to approve special equipment funding by RUS for \$362,559.39. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously
16. **RUSS MALSAM RETIRES.** RUSS MALSAM of Heberly Consulting in Havre retired after many years as an electrical engineer. MALSAM worked closely with Fergus Electric and he will be missed. ROSE LEI will replace MALSAM as the cooperative's contact.
17. **AUDITORS.** CORY WHEELER and TERESA HALLEY worked on Fergus Electric's audit January 16 -18. WHEELER will return March 30 to present the audit to the Board.
18. **CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS.** OFFICE MANAGER HORACEK reported that general capital credit checks for the balance of 1983 and 20% of 1984 were mailed November 1, 2016. The total was \$357,238.65 and approximately \$247,527 has been cashed. On June 1, 2017, the remaining checks will be voided with the balance deposited in a fund for scholarships. After five years, the dollars will be allocated to scholarships.
19. **SUMMER ENGINEER.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that SCOTT OLSON has been hired for the summer to work with STAKING ENGINEERS GUY JOHNSON, MONTE OBERT and MELANIE FORAN, and ASSISTANT LINE SUPERINTENDENT DON CRISWELL. OLSON is from Lewistown and is a sophomore in electrical engineering at Montana Tech in Butte.
20. **METER TECHNICIAN.** MANAGER SWEENEY and LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA are looking to hire a meter technician to start learning about meters in preparation for a new metering system that is planned to be purchased in partnership with PRECorp.
21. **BUDGET ITEMS.** MANAGER SWEENEY reviewed a list of possible budget items for 2017. The Board asked that items be prioritized for consideration at the next general meeting.

22. **FOURTH QUARTER WRITE-OFFS.** JASON SWANZ moved to approve writing off \$341.87 in bad debt and to continue with collection procedures as outlined in Board Policy. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
23. **BILLING.** MANAGER SWEENEY noted that with the power supplier move from Southern to Members 1st, we want to make sure all billing is properly done. CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL will meet with staff to review contracts.
24. **ELECTRIC CO-OP DAY AT THE CAPITOL.** VANGIE McCONNELL reported that 400 lunches were served by electric co-op member services representatives to state legislators, Capitol staff and visitors at the 2017 legislative session in Helena. In addition to lunch, legislators had the opportunity to see exhibits on energy efficiency and to speak with cooperative representatives from across the state
25. **FUTURE MEETINGS.**
- a. Safety Meeting, Testing Hot Sticks, Chains & Slings; Insurance Update – Feb. 7
 - b. Southern Board, Billings – Feb. 2
 - c. Fergus Board, **Wed. Feb. 22**, March 30, April 27, May 25
 - d. Fergus Electric Annual Meeting, Fergus County Trade Center, Thursday, June 8
26. **NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.** Each Board member shared items of interest from their district.
27. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** An executive session convened at 2:30 p.m. and concluded at 3:25 p.m.
28. **ADJOURN.** VICE PRESIDENT DOVER adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.


Secretary

ATTEST: 
President

