

**NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 1, 2023**

**I. Call To Order**

The regular meeting of the Norris Public Power District Board of Directors was held at the Beatrice District Office, located at 606 Irving Street, Beatrice, Nebraska on November 1, 2023. President Hentzen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced that the District abides by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is available for review by anyone present at the meeting. President Hentzen advised the Board that the Statutory Notice of the meeting had been published and that an Attendance Sign-in Sheet is available for public visitors.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of allegiance to the United States flag was recited.

**III. Roll Call**

Administrative Coordinator Emily Shockley called the roll.

**Board Members Present:** Todd Buel, Rodney Heinrichs, Dennis Hentzen, Stewart Huneke, Mark Knobel, Gary Kroese, Kenny Myers, John Novotny, Tom Sieck, Bruce Tegtmeier, Berneal Warner

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Present Employees:** Brue Vitosh, Jerry Enns, Trevor Wehrer, Emily Shockley, Dave Hutt, Susan Newman

**Attorney:** Dave Jarecke

**Present Guests:** None

**IV. Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes**

To approve the October 4, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Passed with a motion by Berneal Warner and a second by John Novotny. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

**V. 2024 Budget Hearing - 9:05 a.m.**

To suspend the public meeting and open the 2024 Budget Hearing. Passed with a motion by Mark Knobel and a second by Kenny Myers. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

The Board suspended the public meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Bruce Vitosh reported that a public notice for the Budget Hearing was performed as required in advance of the Budget Hearing.

Bruce Vitosh provided highlights of the 2024 Operating Budget, Capital Improvements and Business Plan.

There were no public comments during the Budget Hearing.

Upon conclusion of the budget presentation and discussion with the Directors, the Budget Hearing was closed and the public meeting was reconvened at 9:41 a.m.

To close the Budget Hearing and reconvene the public meeting. Passed with a motion by Bruce Tegtmeier and a second by Kenny Myers. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

## **VI. Public Comments**

There were no comments.

## **VII. General Manager and Department Reports**

### **VII.A. General Manager Report**

Trevor Wehrer provided the Safety and Training Report.

Bruce Vitosh provided the Personnel Report and highlights of the General Manager Report.

Bruce Vitosh reported that Northwest Rural Public Power District has given notice of intent to Tri-State Generation and Transmission to terminate their wholesale power contract effective May 1, 2024. Northwest has requested to become a member of the Nebraska Electric Generation and Transmission Coop, which would enable them to ultimately purchase power from Nebraska Public Power District. The Power Resource Advisory Board as identified in the NPPD Wholesale Power Contract will have a special meeting to consider Northwest's request.

### **VII.B. Proprietary Customer Information**

Bruce Vitosh reviewed the Summary of Revenues for September 2023 in comparison to September 2022.

### **VII.C. Financial Statements**

Bruce Vitosh presented financial information for the month of September 2023. Operating revenues for the month ending September 2023 were \$9,311,239 in comparison to the budget of \$7,514,703. Year-to-date operating revenues were \$72,113,164 in comparison to the budget of \$69,956,614. For the month ending September 30, 2023, net margins were \$1,830,333 in comparison to a budget of \$564,976. Year-to-date net margins were \$7,267,685 in comparison to a budget of \$8,022,465. Total cash and investments on September 30, 2023 were \$36,557,192.

## **VII.D. Finance and Accounting Report**

Bruce Vitosh provided highlights of the Finance and Accounting Report.

## **VII.E. Engineering Report**

Jerry Enns presented highlights of the Engineering Department Report.

## **VII.F. Operations Report**

Trevor Wehrer presented highlights of the Operations Department Report.

Bruce Vitosh reported that on October 4, 2023 at the NREA JT&S Conference in Kearney, Trevor Wehrer was presented with the Jack McEnerney Award who put forth effort for the rural electrification program through his work and betterment of linemen through job training and safety. Trevor is a well-deserving recipient of the award.

Approval of the General Manager and Department Reports including the check listing, outgoing wire transfers and credit card statement for September 2023. Passed with a motion by Rodney Heinrichs and a second by Stewart Huneke. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

## **VIII. Approval of Purchases \$125,000-\$250,000**

### **VIII.A. Irrigation Contactor Boxes**

Jerry Enns presented and discussed quotes for irrigation contactor boxes to be used for the 2025 irrigation season. Enns recommended approving the quote from RESCO, in the amount of \$181,750, plus applicable sales taxes, for 100 irrigation contactor boxes and 10 meter socket cabinets.

To approve the quote from RESCO, in the amount of \$181,750, plus applicable sales taxes, for 100 irrigation contactor boxes and 10 meter socket cabinets. Passed with a motion by Mark Knobel and a second by John Novotny. Roll call vote. Bruce Tegtmeier: Abstain (With Conflict), Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

### **VIII.B. Versa-Tech Electronic Vacuum Reclosers**

Jerry Enns presented and discussed quotes for Versa-Tech electronic vacuum reclosers. Enns recommended approving the quote from Graybar, in the amount of \$220,692.50, plus applicable sales taxes, for 50 Hubbell Versa-Tech electronic vacuum reclosers and 20 Hubbell pole mount brackets.

To approve the quote from Graybar, in the amount of \$220,692.50, plus applicable sales taxes, for 50 Hubbell Versa-Tech electronic vacuum reclosers and 20 Hubbell pole mount brackets. Passed with a motion by Gary Kroese and a second by Kenny Myers. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

## **IX. Approval of Formal Bids**

### **IX.A. Bid #23-1 Wood Poles**

Jerry Enns presented and discussed formal bids for wood poles to be used for 2024 construction projects. Enns recommended approving the bid from Border States, in the amount of \$609,797.54, plus applicable sales taxes, for 236 Stella Jones wood poles.

To approve the formal bid from Border States, in the amount of \$609,797.54, plus applicable sales taxes, for 236 Stella Jones wood poles. Passed with a motion by John Novotny and a second by Tom Sieck. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

### **IX.B. Bid #23-2 Conductor**

Jerry Enns presented and discussed formal bids for conductor to be used for 2024 construction projects. Enns recommended approving the bid from Border States, in the amount of \$343,084.64, plus applicable sales taxes, for 448,340 feet of Southwire conductor.

To approve the formal bid from Border States, in the amount of \$343,084.65, plus applicable sales taxes, for 448,340 feet of Southwire conductor. Passed with a motion by Mark Knobel and a second by Stewart Huneke. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

## **X. Directors' Report**

### **X.A. Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA)**

Stewart Huneke communicated that the NREA Annual Meeting will be held on November 29, 30 and December 1 2023, at the Younes North Conference Center in Kearney. Huneke also reported on the 2022 NREA Audit Report and 2024 NREA proposed dues.

### **X.B. Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO)**

Bruce Tegtmeier reported on the RESCO Board Meeting that was held on October 30 and 31, 2023 in Minneapolis.

### **X.C. Comments**

Bruce Tegtmeier reported that he will not be filing as an incumbent candidate for the District's Jefferson County Subdivision term that expires December 31, 2024. He intends to retire from the Board at the end of 2024.

Dennis Hentzen reported on the Power Summit sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Nebraska Public Power District Environmental Partnership that he attended on October 5, 2023 in Lincoln.

## **XI. Unfinished Business**

### **XI.A. None**

## **XII. New Business**

### **XII.A. 2024 Operating Budget, Capital Improvements and Business Plan**

The proposed 2024 Operating Budget, Capital Improvements and Business Plan was reviewed. The proposed 2024 Operating Budget includes operating revenues of \$96,669,000, with net margins of \$9,743,000. The 2024 Capital Improvements Plan was proposed at \$18,816,000.

Approval of the 2024 Operating Budget, Capital Improvements and Business Plan. Passed with a motion by Rodney Heinrichs and a second by Bruce Tegtmeier. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

### **XII.B. Rate Schedules Revisions**

Bruce Vitosh presented and discussed proposed rate schedule revisions. The overall proposed customer rate increase is 2.8% for customer rate schedules effective on bills rendered after January 20, 2024.

To approve proposed revisions to the District's customer rate schedules effective on bills rendered after January 20, 2024. Passed with a motion by Bruce Tegtmeier and a second by Kenny Myers. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

### **XII.C. 2024 Board Meeting Schedule**

The Board reviewed the proposed 2024 Board Meeting Schedule.

Approval of the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule. Passed with a motion by Tom Sieck and a second by Gary Kroese. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

### **XII.D. 2024 Holiday Schedule**

The Board reviewed the proposed 2024 Holiday Schedule.

Approval of the 2024 Norris Holiday Schedule. Passed with a motion by Rodney Heinrichs and a second by Kenny Myers. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

### **XII.E. Ethics, Harassment and Conflict of Interest Training**

Bruce Vitosh provided the Directors with ethics, harassment and conflict of interest training. The Directors were also requested to complete a Conflict of Interest Statement.

**XIII. Notification of Next Board Meeting**

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Beatrice District Office.

**XIV. Adjournment**

To adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m. Passed with a motion by Stewart Huneke and a second by Tom Sieck. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

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**TOM L. SIECK, SECRETARY**

**APPROVED:**

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**DENNIS W. HENTZEN, PRESIDENT**