

MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, JUNE 27, 2019
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session June 27, 2019 with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER calling the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. JANINE RIFE DIDIER was scrivener. Board members in attendance were BRAD ARNTZEN, BOB EVANS, TERRY FROST, CATHY KOMBOL, BRETT MAXWELL and JASON SWANZ. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER DAVID DOVER, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA and OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK were also present.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve it. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the May 30, 2019 general meeting and discussing them, BOB EVANS moved their approval. BRETT MAXWELL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the June 6, 2019 special meeting and discussing them, JASON SWANZ moved their approval. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
5. **REVIEW OF ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES.** The minutes of the June 6, 2019 annual meeting were reviewed. They will be presented to the membership at the 2020 annual meeting for approval.
6. **APPROVAL OF REORGANIZATION BOARD MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the June 6, 2019 reorganization meeting, BRETT MAXWELL approved their approval. BOB EVANS seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
7. **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.
8. **ANNUAL MEETING.** The board reviewed the annual meeting and considered the possibility of the co-op holding a member appreciation day in addition to the annual meeting. The date of the next annual meeting will be Thursday, June 4, 2020.
9. **TRANSMISSION LINE UPDATE.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY and LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that Rocky Mountain Contractors will return to re-tamp several poles on the south end of the project that have voids next to the pole due to dirt settling and clean up several items to complete the job.
10. **NEW METERING SYSTEM.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER updated the board on the current AMI schedule and reported that the co-op has enlisted Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's advice and expertise concerning the upcoming AMI-related Information Technology (IT) installations. Fergus Electric will continue to work with PRECorp on IT issues related to AMI as well. DOVER noted that ITRON has completed the design for phase 2.
11. **TRUCK GARAGE.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA updated the board on the progress being made to comply with the DEQ and get water installed in the truck garage.
12. **SANDFIRE RESOURCES COPPER MINE.** PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER and TERRY FROST told about attending the reception with the Sandfire board of directors on June 19 in Helena. ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER provided the board with an update on the work being done with Sandfire.

- 13. COOPERATIVE SOLAR – PHASE 2.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY and ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER addressed several questions that the board had asked at the May 2019 general meeting concerning building phase 2 solar as a ground installation versus a rooftop installation. Discussion followed. The board permitted staff pursuing getting additional information and then in a month or two a decision can be made.
- 14. FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion. OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reviewed the May 31, 2019 operating report and FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER presented the May 31, 2019 ratios report. BOB EVANS moved to approve the May 2019 financials. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 15. INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 595-595X for \$112,324.50 and 595-595X (A) for \$10,265.82 dated May 31, 2019, TERRY FROST moved to approve them. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 16. POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** GENERAL MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board reviewed a report prepared by JANINE RIFE DIDIER covering power interruptions for January-June 2019.
- 17. OPERATIONS REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that a Lewistown crew is testing poles east of Judith Gap and have checked poles in the Glengarry and Grass Range areas. RIKALA was pleased to report that the co-op hired three apprentice linemen who began working on June 24. The new hires are BROCK PYRAH, who will report to work at the Roundup office, and DANYON RICE and COLLIN SULLIVAN, who will report to work at the Lewistown office. RIKALA reported that FOREMAN CURT OLSON resigned his position in Lewistown effective June 21, having accepted a lineman job at Orcas Power & Light on Orcas Island, Washington. RIKALA said that he will miss working with OLSON and wished him and his family the best. RIKALA reported that the staking engineers have staked new services in the Lewistown, Geysler, Winifred, Roundup and White Sulphur Springs areas.
- 18. APPROVAL OF NEW SIGNERS OF FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.** With the election of new officers at the June 6, 2019 reorganization meeting, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reported that the financial institutions with which the cooperative has accounts requires the cooperative to complete new signature cards. After a brief discussion, CATHY KOMBOL moved to approve the new signers of Fergus Electric Cooperative. BRETT MAXWELL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 19. BOARD POLICIES 601- LINE EXTENSION POLICY - GENERAL.** The Board reviewed Policy 601 and TERRY FROST moved to approve the policy as presented. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 20. BOARD POLICY 602 – LINE EXTENSION POLICY – SUBDIVISIONS AND BOARD POLICY 214 – INTERCONNECTION OF COGENERATORS.** The Board recommended that Board Policies 602 be tabled until next month and 214 will need further review.
- 21. REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL was not in attendance at the June board meeting.
- 22. MECA MANAGER MEETING.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER said it was an excellent agenda.
- 23. MEMBERS 1ST.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY and PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER gave a summary of the June Members 1st board meeting.
- 24. SAFETY MEETINGS.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that pole top rescue and bucket truck rescue were conducted.

25. **MECA INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reported on attending the meeting and briefly discussed whether the cooperative would be interested in participating by sending linemen to other countries for a designated amount of time to work on power lines.

26. **REGION 9 VOTING DELEGATE.** JASON SWANZ moved to authorize BOB EVANS to be Fergus Electric Cooperative's voting delegate at the NRECA Region 9 meeting, September 25-26 in Spokane, Washington. BRETT MAXWELL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

27. **ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS.** The Board reviewed the June 2019 estate capital credit retirements of \$19,553.38 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. JASON SWANZ moved to affirm the retirements and BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

28. **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.

29. **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION 457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION RETIREMENT PLAN.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY present the proposed resolution for the board to adopt. After a period of discussion, BOB EVANS moved to adopt the Executive Compensation 457(b) Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy is attached.

30. **FUTURE MEETINGS.**

- a. FEC Board, July 24, Aug. 29 and Sep. 23, Oct. 31, Dec. 6 and Dec. 19 – 9 a.m.
- b. MECA Summer Meeting and MECA Board Meeting, July 9-10, Dillon
- c. Members 1st/PRECorp, July 16, Gillette
- d. Safety Meeting, LaMona Berry/Aflac; FEC Staff: Metering Update; Ryan Hall/MECA: Media Relations Training, July 17
- e. PRECorp Annual Meeting, Aug. 24, Buffalo
- f. NRECA Region 9, Sep. 25-26, Spokane
- g. FEC Board and Christmas Awards Dinner, Friday, Dec. 6, Winifred

31. **NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.**

32. **ADJOURNMENT.** PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

SECRETARY



ATTEST: PRESIDENT

