

MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session September 23, 2020 with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER 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, JASON SWANZ and BRETT MAXWELL. GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY, CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL, and LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA were also present. OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK was not in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, TERRY FROST moved to approve it. BOB EVANS seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the August 27, 2020 general meeting and discussing them, BOB EVANS moved their approval. BRAD ARNTZEN 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. GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reviewed the August 31, 2020 operating report. JANINE RIFE DIDIER presented the August 31, 2020 monthly ratios report.
7. **OPERATIONS REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that OWEN THATCHER has accepted the Roundup journeyman lineman position and will begin work October 5th. RIKALA reported that the co-op lost 17 power poles when strong winds spread fire north of Kolin on September 2nd. That same day, the Bobcat Fire started in the Bull Mountains and continued to burn until it was contained on September 17th. Fergus Electric had a loss of 13 power poles, two of which were transmission poles. RIKALA said two other small fires had resulted from power outages and one, northeast of Lavina, lead to the loss of four cows that contacted an energized conductor near the ground. CREED ZIBELL, CJZ Tree Service, finished trimming trees in Grass Range this week.
8. **INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 600-600X for \$125,178.26 and 600-600X (A) for \$20,197.91, dated August 31, 2020, TERRY FROST moved to approve them. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
9. **POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** The Board reviewed the outage report prepared by JANINE RIFE DIDIER which covered power interruptions for January 2020-August 2020.
10. **BOARD POLICY 201- FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.** The Board reviewed Policy 201. After discussion, JASON SWANZ moved to approve the policy as amended. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
11. **BOARD POLICY 202 – CONSULTANTS.** The Board reviewed Policy 202.
12. **BOARD POLICY 203 – TRUSTEE EXPENSES AND FEES.** The Board reviewed Policy 203. After discussion, the Board agreed to table further action until next month.
13. **REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL reported he had worked on items of importance to the cooperative.

14. MANAGER'S REPORT. MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reported that he (virtually) attended the annual Basin Manager's Conference. MANAGER SWEENEY reported that Sandfire Resources (copper mine) has started construction of a water reservoir, roads, and site preparation. SWEENEY reported that construction on Phase 2 solar installation started September 21st. SWEENEY said that he is developing a pilot/test program standard to use in creating a Line Patrol program that he expects to start in 2021 and would cover the co-op's system in a period of approximately three years. MANAGER SWEENEY updated the Board on the after-hours calling service and said that once he and staff have completed two full cycles of answering after-hours calls, they will get together and do an evaluation to determine if the group is consistently and effectively meeting the needs of the members and the employees.

15. EMPLOYEE INSURANCE AND BENEFIT REVIEW. LORI SLABODA/NRECA FIELD REPRESENTATIVE conducted a Zoom presentation with the Board, covering the various plans NRECA offers to Fergus Electric employees. The Board was given an opportunity to ask questions during SLABODA'S talk.

16. PRECORP/MEMBERS 1ST MEETING. BOARD PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER and GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reported on the September 22nd PRECorp/Members 1st meetings that they attended via Zoom.

17. SAFETY MEETING. RIKALA reported that the September 8th safety meeting was a Zoom presentation by NRECA FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, LORI SLABODA who updated staff on retirement and insurance benefits. A second meeting would be scheduled with SLABODA for those who were unable to attend. MECA SAFETY INSTRUCTOR, JERRY LEMM will discuss Hazard Communications, Safety Data Sheets and Healthy Lifestyles at the October 1st safety meeting. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it is likely that virtual safety meetings will continue until further notice.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION. At 12:55 p.m., TERRY FROST moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

19. GENERAL SESSION RESUMES. At 1:15 p.m., BRETT MAXWELL moved to adjourn the executive session. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

20. ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS. The Board reviewed the September 2020 list of estate capital credits in the amount of \$14,574.04 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. JASON SWANZ moved to affirm the retirements and BRETT MAXWELL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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. OTHER BUSINESS. None.

23. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. Safety Meeting, Oct. 1
- b. MECA Annual Meeting, Oct. 5-7
- c. PRECorp/Members 1st, Oct. 20
- d. FEC Board, Oct. 29, Nov. 19 & Dec. 17

24. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

25. ADJOURNMENT. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

SECRETARY _____

ATTEST: PRESIDENT _____