

Minutes of the
Decatur County REMC
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday December 19th, 2019
1430 W Main St.
Greensburg, IN at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Steve AmRhein called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and Michael Brelage kept minutes of the meeting.

All members of the board were present. Also present were DCREMC CEO Brett Abplanalp and DCREMC staff members Jennie Meyer, Crystal Greathouse, Pat Nobbe, Jeanne Loechle and Rachel Sullivan.

Upon motion by Dale Wernke, seconded by Brian Scheidler, and carried, the agenda of the meeting was approved.

Rachel Sullivan presented the communication plan. This will be “the year of the member” and the goal will be to become a unified co-op. Also, we will draft value statements and look into revising the mission statement as part of the plan.

The financial report was given by Jennie Meyer and reviewed as presented on Call to Order. Revenues are below budget as well as power cost and expenses which drove our margins above budget. The financials were accepted by the board as presented and filed for audit.

When questioned on the line item of meters and transformers, Jennie Meyer explained that currently they would have to manually enter these from work orders but moving forward they plan to have these coded separately, so they won't have to manually input them.

A motion was made by Jason Barnhorst seconded by Jeff Lawrence, and carried, approving the consent agenda by unanimous vote.

Brett Abplanalp reported the IT position has been filled and he will start on January 6. He has spent most of his time this month on the 2020 budget and broadband opportunities.

The dashboard review showed that November was a cold month which boosted kwh sales and demand. Also, outages and line loss have been down over the year with the top outage causes in November being machine or vehicle accidents and then trees.

In projects the radios for the substations have been ordered to mitigate the risk of meter reading downtime due to equipment being beyond its useful life. The new web site will be launched in January as part of our member engagement initiative. Last, the pole replacement bids were received, and the lowest bid was accepted.

Hoosier Energy Board update was given by Jason Barnhorst. Hoosier Energy is currently looking at their long-range resource plan.

IEC update was given by Steve AmRhein.

Old Business:

On a motion by Michael Brelage seconded by Jason Barnhorst and passed, the Power Cost Tracker "Appendix A" was modified as redlined.

On a motion by Dale Wernke seconded by Jason Barnhorst and passed on a 4-3 vote with Jeff Lawrence and Carl Riedeman dissenting, the 2020 budget was approved as presented pending the removal of \$35,500 for NSC Work Management project, the reduction from \$80,000 to \$10,000 for the front office security improvements with the understanding that more money could be available after bidding and priority is completed, and \$10,278 removed from store expenses.

The Board Accountability Committee presented a resolution to reduce the number of board members from 8 to 7 when a sitting member decides not to run for re-election in order to bring the number of directors more in line with the number of members we have along with a potential long-term cost savings. On a motion by Michael Brelage seconded by Dale Wernke the resolution failed to receive a super majority and failed 4-3 with Jeff Lawrence and Carl Riedeman dissenting.

On a motion by Brian Scheidler, seconded by Michael Brelage and passed by super majority, the following bylaw changes were made; section 3.06 and 6.02 the wording of at least two (2) directors must be nominated to one (1), section 6.14 the wording of at least two (2) directors be nominated for affiliated organizations to one (1).

New Business:

On a motion by Jeff Lawrence seconded by Carl Riedeman and passed the Resolution for 2020 Capital Credit retirement was accepted.

On a motion by Michael Brelage seconded by Jeff Lawrence, then amended by Jeff Lawrence and seconded by Michael Brelage and passed the Commercial Tariff redline changes were accepted as amended.

Jason Barnhorst was nominated as the NRECA voting delegate by Michael Brelage seconded by Brian Scheidler and elected.

Jason Barnhorst was nominated as the NRTC voting delegate by Brian Scheidler seconded by Jeff Lawrence and elected.

Steve AmRhein, Jason Barnhorst, Brian Scheidler and Brett Abplanalp attended the IEC annual meeting and shared information from the speakers. Jason Barnhorst also attended several other board development courses.

Upon a motion made by Michael Brelage and seconded by Dale Wernke the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

Michael Brelage, Secretary

Attest: _____
Steve AmRhein, Chairman