



Solutions for the Future

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Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

800 Kenny Wren Road

Nushagak Cooperative Conference Room

MINUTES

Call to Order: Board Vice President, Henry Strub called the Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to order on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 6:09 p.m.

Directors Present: *(Quorum Established)*

Pete Andrew, President
Henry Strub, Vice-President
Annie Fritze, Secretary
Wanda Wahl, Treasurer

Bruce Baltar, Director
Sue Flensburg, Director
Mark Lisac, Director
Jean Barrett, Director

Directors Absent: Steve Noonkesser, Director

Staff Present: Will Chaney, CEO/GM
Angela Thames, Business Office Manager
Angie Venua, Comptroller
Dennis Payne, Telecom Operations Manager

Guests: Brendyn Shiflea, CFO, Choggiung, Ltd.

Approval of Agenda: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Annie Fritze seconded the motion to approve the June 20, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda.

The motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Minutes: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Jean Barrett seconded the motion to approve the May 16, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes as submitted.

The motion carried 7-0.

Guests and Member Comments: Brendyn Shiflea gave a progress report on the Fiber Project, some of the highlights were: the Second Round NTIA grant will be opening soon, close to finalizing the initial expenditure plan for approval and exploring other sources of funding. Mr. Shiflea also stated that Choggiung is exploring alternative power productions, the potential of solar generation.

Reports:

- A. Will Chaney – Sue Flensburg thanked Will Chaney for the email update on the Fiber Project’s RFP, specifically the Intent to Award.

Henry Strub asked if the Strategic Planning, with Rob Carr, CFC, will still be scheduled for later this year. Mr. Chaney confirmed that was still the intent.

Jean Barrett asked if there are outside training opportunities for the Power Plant Technician. Mr. Chaney, and another Power Plant employee participated in NUS Correspondence Training; this is not a requirement of the position. Mr. Barrett then asked if the company vehicles run on gas or diesel, Mr. Chaney confirmed the company utilized both gas and diesel vehicles.

- B. Dennis Payne – Bruce Baltar asked Mr. Payne to explain the acronyms: FTTH – Fiber to the Home, AUSF: Alaska Universal Service Fund. Mr. Baltar also asked for an update on the Cable TV issue that the membership is experiencing. Dennis Payne explained that the missing channels became an issue when the satellite’s transponders lost channels, in an attempt to get this issue rectified other issues became apparent. Nushagak is currently working with their provider, Microcom, to resolve the issue, however; Microcom is needing further assistance from Dish to do so.
- C. Angela Thames – No questions at this time.
- D. Angie Venua – Annie Fritze asked for clarification on the Comparison of Local C & C totals by Billing Period. Ms. Venua explained that table breaks down number of member accounts per billing code/service, and the dollar amount associated with that number of accounts.

Safety Moment: Heat Illness Prevention was read by Will Chaney

Discussion/Review:

- A. 2023 Operating Budget – A lengthy discussion on the possibility of adjusting the 2023 Operating Budget to include a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), across the employee group, was had; there has not been an adjustment since 2014. Concerns were discussed and many questions remained unanswered. Rob Carr, CFC, is scheduled later this year to start the process on a Rate Study; the information that will come from the Rate Study will be beneficial to determine if a COLA would be feasible. The Board requested that Management provide additional information, including a recommendation, to be presented at a future board meeting. The information provided by Management will be instrumental in the 2024 budgeting process.
- B. Connect Fees – Will Chaney discussed the need to update the connect fees; the fees have not been addressed in 20+ years. More information will be gathered during the Rate Study.
- C. General Board Discussion – Pete Andrew discussed the possibility of suspending July's Regular Scheduled Board Meeting.

Sue Flensburg gave a verbal report on the Sustainable Energy Conference that she attended in Anchorage during May.

- D. General CEO Discussion – Angela Thames assisted Curyung Tribal Council to implement BBNA's CDC household internet assistance program, resulting in a \$650 credit to all qualifying Internet members, a total of \$245,000 was distributed.

An Intent to Award letter was delivered to AK Directional Drilling. Meetings are being held and scheduled to move forward with the Fiber Project.

Generator Units 16 & 17 are online, these generators are utilized for summer production.

Action Items:

- A. **Approve Scholarship Committee Recommendations** Bruce Baltar motioned to approve the 2023 Scholarship Committee Recommendations and Mark Lisac seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

Director Items:

- A. Future Board Items/New Business – None at this time.
- B. Unfinished Business – None at this time.

C. Future Meetings & Conference Dates: Pete Andrew suggested that a Budget Committee Meeting be scheduled sometime in July. Burce Baltar, Mark Lisac, Sue Flensburg, Wanda Wahl and Jean Barrett volunteered to be available if their schedule allows.

1. APA Accounting & Finance Workshops, August 8-9, 2023, Anchorage, AK
2. APA Annual Meeting, August 22-25, 2023, Valdez, AK
3. NRECA Director Training, August 23, 2023, Valdez, AK
4. National Hydropower Assoc. AK Regional Mtg, Sept. 12-13, 2023, Anchorage, AK
5. Alaska Electric Utility Legal Workshop, October 11-12, Anchorage, AK
6. 2023 Broadband Showcase, November 1-2, 2023, Anchorage, AK
7. ATA 2024 Winter Conference, January 28-31, Lihue, Kauai, HI

Call for Executive Session. (C2) subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.

Wanda Wahl motioned, and Mark Lisac seconded the motion to move into Executive Session. The motion passed 8-0. The time was 8:45 pm.

Sue Flensburg motioned, and Mark Lisac seconded the motion to move out of Executive Session. The motion passed 8-0. The time was 9:43 pm.

Adjournment: Jean Barrett motioned, and Mark Lisac seconded the motion to adjourn and with no further business to come before the board, Board President Pete Andrew adjourned the June 20, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 9:43 pm. The motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist 8/15/2023
Date

Approved By:



Annie Fritze, Secretary 8/15/2023
Date

