

## **BEC 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Membership of Bayfield Electric Cooperative was held via Zoom on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Meeting was called to order by President Santikko at 6:04 p.m.

Quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation was given by James Kinzie, BEC Board Member.

Safety Message was given- tips on what to do if you encounter a down power line.

President Santikko gave the procedures of the meeting, followed by appointing Sara Anderson as Active Secretary.

President Santikko announced the reading of the official notice of the 2020 meeting by Diane Berweger.

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by members as printed in the WEC News Magazine. Motion carried.

### **President's report by Mark Santikko:**

Mark gave members some personal background on his associations with the cooperative and their past/current employees throughout his life which made him want to become a director on the Bayfield Electric board. He spoke about the strategic plan the board has in place, which included a brushing program, switching troubled lines from overhead to underground, all to reduce outages to provided reliable service. Mark gave recognition to the line crew on their impressive report of miles driven and hours worked with no loss time incidents. Another accomplishment the board has is in the energy efficient building which was built 5 years ago, with members in mind, and keeping the building as "green" as can be to keep costs down.

### **Financial Report by Jim Halvorsen of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP: Auditing firm for Bayfield Electric**

Jim Halvorsen, CPA, via zoom, explained the auditing process. Slides were shared describing financial statuses and assured the members the cooperative is currently in good standing.

### **CEO's Report by Diane Berweger:**

Diane Berweger gave recognition to board members and employees for milestone anniversaries: Robert Kretzschmar, board Vice-President- 45 years. Barry Radloff, Dairyland Power board of director-35 years, Robert Lahti, Operations Manager-20 years and Amanda Kavajecz, Billing Specialist-5 years. With 1,995 miles of line, 58% are overhead lines and 42% are underground. Trees and squirrels are the main culprits of outages in overhead lines, where lightening will cause most outages in underground. The cooperative compares the benefits of whether to brush right of way of overhead lines vs. burying wire. A workplan project in the near future will be upgrading one of Bayfield Electric's oldest line from overhead 2 phase to underground 3 phase line, which will be beneficial to all members, as Bayfield Electric will then tie all but 2 substations together, meaning less outages for all. Because of COVID19, the headquarters office is closed to the public, open by appointment only. With today's technology, making your electric payment can be by SmartHub, pay by phone, drop box, or putting your payment in the mail, has made many things easily accessible. In 2020, we are celebrating 80 years this years of bringing safe, reliable electricity to your home. Thank you to all the board of directors and staff of Bayfield Electric, it is what we are, A TEAM.

### **Election results:**

Attorney, Mary Beth Peranteau announced positions up for election followed by the procedure of the elections. Ballots were mailed out to all members in the two contested districts. Ballots were returned to auditors, CLA, for Districts 5 and 9.

Results were announced by auditor Jim Halvorsen, CPA as follows:

District 5: Carl Schutte re-elected over Mike Berlin by vote from ballots mailed in by members. 108 vs 62 votes.

District 6: Curtis Berweger re-elected unopposed.

District 9: Kenneth Clement re-elected over Mike Nelson by vote from ballots mailed in by members. 123 vs 100 votes.

### **New Business:**

Mark Santikko asked if there were any questions by members to use the chat feature on zoom. There were many comments in the chat referring to the new net metering policy for solar generated by members. BEC's response will be posted on the website.

Meeting motioned and seconded to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.

