



Ticaboo Utility Improvement District

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Committed to providing reliable power and clean, safe, drinking water to the community

TICABOO UTILITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING Minutes

Date: Wed. March 19th, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

LOCATION: Electronic Meeting

Pursuant to House Bill 5002, 'Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments,' passed during the 2020 Fifth Special Session of the Utah Legislature and codified under Utah Code Ann. § 52-4-207(4), I, Alexa Wilson, hereby make the following written determination in my capacity as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Ticaboo Utility Improvement District warranting the TUID Board to convene and conduct electronic meetings without a proper anchor location:

Meeting summary for TUID Board Meeting (03/19/2025)

Quick recap

The board meeting focused on various topics, including water rights, renewable energy providers, and the General Manager's report. The financial update revealed a slight increase in gross profit and a decrease in fuel costs, with potential savings and more predictable costs through a power purchase agreement for solar energy. The sustainability of current operations and the exploration of solar energy options were also discussed.

Next steps

- John to continue monitoring and following up on the ongoing audit process.
 - Board to explore ways to form a committee to involve community members in the solar energy options and proposals.
 - John to continue discussions and information gathering with Torus Energy regarding their solar power proposal.
 - Mike to continue monitoring the water rights situation and communicating with Smith Hartvigsen.
 - John to follow up with Rural Water Association of Utah regarding a water rate study.
 - John to investigate potential grants for water system improvements, particularly for replacing aging water valves.
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Summary

Alexa Wilson calls the meeting to order, and the agenda was adopted. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Mike provides an update on water rights, mentioning they are working with Smith Hartvigsen to replace lost rights and mentions the timeframe of 7 years that the process must be completed within. Mike added that Smith Hartvigsen confirmed that the new, most recent water rights legislation unfortunately would not apply to TUID. Alexa added that the next steps for Smith Hartvigsen were to pull in experts at the law firm and propose a strategy for moving forward.

Rate Study, Rural Water Association and Grant Opportunities

Mike suggested they keep the conversation going regarding a rate study, pointing out that although a big expense, TUID has always been in survival mode, keeping the lights on and the generators running, and has not been able to look closely at where rates should currently be.

Alexa agreed that money was the only issue with doing a rate study, pointing out that because everything is in flux, after a year's time they could look at doing one.

John added that a rate study would be exciting, complex and educational and emphasized the importance of having each sector (water, electrical, sewer) support itself financially. John explained that he's been working with the Rural Water Association of Utah for the past year regarding a water rate study and expects that to be completed soon. He also discussed exploring grant opportunities for improvements and maintenance, particularly for replacing aging water valves, noting that the population size of Ticaboo may hinder their eligibility for some grants. Additionally, he mentions Torus has offered to help analyze electricity usage data using their advanced tools and experience.

Management Report

John provides a detailed financial update on the utility's operations. He reports that the audit is ongoing, with information submitted early and quickly. The unaudited year-end P&L shows a slight increase in gross profit compared to the previous year, partly due to higher connection fees from new customers. Fuel costs decreased, which is positive, but generator repair and maintenance costs remain high. John notes that a potential power purchase agreement for solar energy could cost annually about the same as current fuel expenses, which could provide significant savings and more predictable costs. He reiterated that reducing generator runtime through solar could extend generator lifespans and reduce maintenance costs. Overall, John sees solar as a promising option to improve the utility's finances and potentially lower costs for consumers in the future. John emphasized the importance of thorough vetting and due diligence in selecting a solar provider.

John and Alexa discussed the sustainability of their current operations, particularly the use of generators and the potential of solar energy. They agreed that the current approach is not sustainable and that exploring solar energy is necessary.

Next meetings were confirmed for June 11th at 5:30 pm and Sept. 10th at 5:30 pm

Adjournment--Amy Golden made a motion to adjourn, Mike Morlang 2nd and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.