

Electric Committee Meeting
February 11, 2020
4:00 PM
City Hall

Attendance

Brent Wallin
Jon Anderson
Janet Hansen
Mark Mitton
Carol Anderson

Minutes

1. Election of committee representative

It was stated that Kim Seely had an emergency and could not attend the meeting, however she would like to nominate Jon Anderson as the committee representative. Janet agreed followed by Jon.

2. BPA Updates

It was explained that BPA has increases every few years, an increase was made just this past October and it would be a year and a half before we hear anything about increases from BPA again. It was stated that the increases tend to be a learning process.

BPA had just recently finished a twelve-year project of creating a transmission line that starts in Oregon and travels to Hemmingway Idaho, which is a substation called Hemmingway Substation Idaho. This will be how power is transmitted from Oregon to Idaho. BPA has 25% ownership of the line; Idaho Power has 50% ownership and Rocky Mountain Power as 25%. It was explained that Rocky Mountain Power covers Utah, Wyoming and some of Colorado. With this new transmission line, the coal plant in Wyoming that supplies power to Idaho will be shut down. The timeline of this event was unknown. This could affect the rates. This would be how power would be exchanged in the new transmission line.

3. Conservation Rebates Update and Review

Two years ago, Burley had a rebate program. The program was to run for two years. However, the conservation money was gone in seven months, so for seventeen months there was no money to help anyone with any projects. There were some projects that qualified for the program and the people were told to reapply when the money would be available again. In October 2019 money was made available again for the conservation rebate.

It was explained that some guidelines were put in place to allow projects to be completed but have the money going to many projects, instead of a few big projects. One such item would be

to limit \$5,000 per month. A handout with the limits was handed out to the committee members.

The process of the rebate program and how the money is given back to the consumer was explained. All projects need to be pre-approved before beginning in order to qualify for the rebate. This creates a list of who is applying and what they are applying for and ensures that the rules are being followed.

A few specific projects were discussed as examples. A question came up about whether there would be a carry over if the \$5,000 per month was not spent. It was explained that there is no carry over.

4. Solar Power for Commercial Review

It was stated that solar power has become a popular item for homeowners recently and now commercial companies are looking at solar power also. It was explained that homeowners would install solar panels on their homes and when the sun is out and generating heat these homes reduce their electrical pull on the system, however when the sun is covered by clouds that the home again uses power from the city. The homeowner then can use some credits from before when they were not using power. It was explained that this is a cashless system. The City is not giving money to the consumer, because there is some cost to the City to be a backup power to the consumer. Most homes use a 25-kilowatt hours (kWh) panel to power their home.

It was explained that in Nevada, Elon Musk had put in solar power and had started selling power to consumers from the solar power. Nevada discovered that there is a real cost to be a backup power to an individual and Nevada has come up with a formula to figure out the real cost. The calculations are needed to know what the real cost is to the City of Burley. The cost per month for the City would be \$40.00 per month. There was a discussion about having two meters to monitor what is going out and what the solar panels are bringing in. A policy would be created and presented to the council.

5. RV Park

It was explained that the RV Park is shut down in the winter months to keep the RV Park from becoming a homeless encampment. There was a small discussion about having people in the RV Park last year and running cords from one site to the next, using the spots for changing oil.

The bathrooms are closed during the winter and you can't get water and sewer at the sites during the winter. It was suggested that the RV Park be shut down for the winter with a gate that allows no access for the winter.

6. Nuscale Presentations and Tours

The Utah association (UAMPS) partnered with the INL to put in a nuclear plant. They are putting together a presentation and with tours of the components and the project in March in Portland. It would be good if the council members could take advantage of this free opportunity. It would be worth the time. This will be similar to what will be happening in Idaho Falls. Registration and hotels are free. It would just cost money to drive up to Portland for the event. A handout of the Itinerary was handed out.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.