

**OVERTON POWER DISTRICT NO. 5  
BOARD MEETING**

May 17, 2017  
4:00 P.M.  
Overton, Nevada

**PRESENT:** Mr. Mike Fetherston, Chairman  
Mr. Doug Waite, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Mike Young, Secretary / Treasurer  
Mr. Robert Bunker, Trustee  
Mr. Chad Leavitt, Trustee  
Mrs. Judy Metz, Trustee  
Mr. Jack Nelson, Trustee  
Mr. Byron Mills, Attorney

Mr. Mendis Cooper, General Manager  
Mrs. Teresa Romero, Assistant General Manager / Finance & Administration Manager  
Mr. Jon Jensen, Engineering Manager  
Mr. Bruce Hughes, Manager of Transmission & Distribution Operations  
Mrs. MeLisa Garcia, Accounting Supervisor  
Mrs. Becky LaGrow, Executive Assistant

*Note: The minutes of this meeting have been tape-recorded and will remain on file in the District's main office for a period of one-year for public examination.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

ORDER OF BUSINESS: At 4:00 p.m. Mr. Mike Fetherston called the meeting of the Overton Power District No. 5 Board of Trustees to order. The agenda items were addressed in the following order:

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 19, 2017 Board Meeting were unanimously approved as written.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Mike Fetherston announced the Virgin Valley Senior Awards Night is May 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Byron Mills had no report at this time.

## **MANAGER'S REPORTS**

- **ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS**

Mr. Jon Jensen reported the new transformers at Dinosaur Substation have been tested and all results are within manufacturer specifications. The transformer installed in the existing bay has been energized and load has been moved back to Dinosaur. In January, during routine maintenance in Tortoise Substation, a low gas alarm was found on Circuit Switcher T5. This Circuit Switcher feeds Lincoln County Power, Glendale and Moapa Substations. The part was ordered and recently replaced by Lincoln County and OPD employees. Instead of making repairs in the usual manner, a new technique was tried that proved to be effective and shorten the length of the repair by approximately one-half day. Mr. Jensen thanked Corey Dalley and Keven Hansen for their dedication and safe work practices. Mike Young stated it is nice to have a management that allows staff to voice ideas and are given the chance to follow through with the ideas. This shows true teamwork. Judy Metz commented it was a job well done.

- **CONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Bruce Hughes reported there were two unplanned outages in Overton caused by bad connections on overhead conductors. There were no unplanned outages in Mesquite. The Overton crew is working on new line into the Simplot pit, T5 switch repairs at Tortoise, AMI work, outage repairs in Moapa. The Mesquite crew worked on numerous hookups, conduit work on Willis Carrier from Falcon Substation to Pioneer Road, Wishing Well subdivision transformer set and high voltage wire pull, and changing out aged transformers in Sunset Greens. The topic for the May Safety meeting was Helicopter Landing Prep and Secondary Arc Flash. An invitation to attend this training was sent to Mesquite Fire and Police Departments, also the Overton and Bunkerville Fire Departments; an officer from the Mesquite Police Department attended. The officer attending requested more training for first responders; Bruce and Hector are working to facilitate more extensive training with the police and fire departments in each valley. Mr. Hughes reported an employee mentioned situational awareness training might be beneficial; after looking into it, Women's Defensive Weaponry (WDW) of Mesquite conducts this type of training for a reasonable cost. Situational Awareness training was held in Mesquite on May 10<sup>th</sup> and will be held May 24<sup>th</sup> in Overton. This month there were eighteen residential and one commercial hook-ups. To date the No Loss Time Record stands at 9 years, 7 months, and 4 days. There was an incident with a crane hitting a 3-phase line at Simplot. The conductors have been repaired and there was damage to the crane. Chad Leavitt asked regarding the new meters, if customers would be able to see real time usage. The response given was that there will be a portal available via the internet or an Aclara app that is not connected to District servers thus reducing security risks. Next week is the startup of the program, currently, thirteen meters are reading and twenty-six deployed. Bob Bunker asked if Aclara has been good to work with? The response was the training has been phenomenal.

- **GENERAL MANAGER**

Mr. Mendis Cooper reported he was invited to do a presentation at the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce meeting, where a lot of information was exchanged and new contacts were made. Mendis Cooper and Mike Fetherston visited legislators in Washington D.C. at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference. Mr. Cooper also passed along the water year information given by Colorado River Commission (CRC). Report finds water run-off is still at 130% of normal; they are

expecting an increase at Lake Powell which in turn can mean they will release water into Lake Mead. Mr. Cooper gave a state legislative update. Almost all of the energy bills are moving along. Next week the employment opportunity ads will run in the newspapers for the approved positions. Silver State Energy Association (SSEA) transmission line is still progressing slowly. Mendis and the attorney are also still negotiating with NV Energy; an agreement in principle has been reached, but still needs a bit of fine tuning.

- **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs. Terry Romero reported information gathering is being finalized for the first phase of the cost of service that should take six to eight weeks. The next phase will be the rate design and should take another six to eight weeks. Many factors need to be considered, the path we are currently on and the effect Energy Choice could have will be considered. Mike Young asked if they come out and visit at all? Currently, staff is providing all the information, they may come out at the end of the process. We are looking at the end of September to have the final analysis. Bob Bunker asked if they will break the report into specifics? Terry replied they will break it down into items such as transmission costs, distribution side, rate tiers, and other different variables. Mike Young stated, many times they request your strategy so they can come up with a plan. The Board may need to form a sub-committee to strategize goals and future anticipated needs.

- **ACCOUNTING**

Mrs. Garcia gave the financial report for April 2017, a copy of which is on file.

### **REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL TO RE-PRICE CFC LOAN (9) # 9000009**

CFC Loan #9000009 (Loan #9) is due for repricing on September 1, 2017, but we can lock the new repricing rate in as early as June 1, 2017. The loan currently has an interest rate of 3.45%. The District has the option to reprice the loan at a rate of 4.00% for a term of 5 years and then the loan will be up for repricing again. Or another option would be to lock in for the term of the loan (11 years) at a rate of 4.30%. The new rate will be locked in on June 1, 2017 and will not take effect until September 1, 2017. The fiscal impact to the District is an increase of \$19,451.66 in interest expense yearly for 5-year repricing or an increase of \$30,092.10 in interest expense yearly for 11-year term to maturity. Most discussion by Board members leaned towards interest rates rising, so the best option was to go with the known instead of hoping for a lower interest rate. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Bob Bunker and seconded by Chad Leavitt to give approval for Staff to lock in the rate for CFC Loan #9000009 for an eleven-year term and not to exceed an interest rate of 4.35%. The Board voted seven (7) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

### **REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR**

The current General Manager was hired by the Board of Trustees in July 2013. The Board entered into a three-year contract with the General Manager in 2014. The contract expires on June 1, 2017. The terms of the contract specify that the agreement may be extended for additional periods of one year by resolution of the Board of Trustees. There is no fiscal impact to the District. After discussion by the

Board, a motion was made by Mike Young and seconded by Doug Waite to approve a resolution to extend the General Manager’s contract for one year. The Board voted seven (7) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

**REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF OPD EMPLOYMENT & HIRING PRACTICES POLICY OPD-A-08.201**

This Policy establishes the general employment and hiring practices for the District. The policy includes the equal opportunity statement. Staff has recommended several changes to the policy, including references to other policies recently approved by the Board. This policy was last reviewed in 2008. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Bob Bunker and seconded by Mike Young to approve the Employment and Hiring Practices Policy with the changes recommended by the attorney and staff including the addition of “sex, disability, genetic information” as protected persons to Section C – Equal Employment Opportunity. The Board voted seven (7) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Doug stated last month we were told in public comments that the District was being turned into the Attorney General’s office for open meeting law violations; has anything come of that? Byron responded not at this time. The Attorney General’s Office rendered an opinion once before so they may state it has already been addressed. If the AG decide to review it again, they will notify us.

**APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting date will be Wednesday, June 21, 2017. The meeting will be held in the Mesquite Office at 4:00 PM. The Board voted seven (7) ayes and zero (0) nays in approval.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:20 PM.

**EXECUTIVE – CLOSED DOOR SESSION**

A motion was made to enter Executive Session.  
A motion was made to exit Executive Session.

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Chairman, Mike Fetherston

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Vice Chairman, Doug Waite

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Secretary / Treasurer, Mike Young