

**GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS'
MEETING MINUTES**

**December 14, 2020
Fairbanks, Alaska**

	<p>The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc. was held on December 14, 2020. Due to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, the meeting was held virtually.</p>
<p>PRESENT</p>	<p><u>Directors:</u> Tom DeLong, Chairman; John Sloan, Vice Chairman; Dave Messier, Treasurer; Gary Newman, Secretary; Chris Bunch, Rick Solie and Brad Benson.</p> <p><u>Staff:</u> John Burns, President & CEO; Ron Woolf, Chief Financial Officer; Frank Perkins, Vice President Power Supply; Nathan Minnema, Acting Director of Engineering Services; Josh Davis, Director of Operations; Abbigail Dillard, Acting Director of Member Services; Kathryn Strle, Treasury Manager; Reagan Russell, Director of Human Resources; Meadow Bailey, Director of External Affairs/Public Relations; Melissa Connor, Member Services Manager; Daniel Heckman, Regulatory Analyst; Ashley Bradish, Public Relations Specialist; Susan Redlin, Executive Administrative Assistant and Cori Taylor, Administrative Assistant Executive Office.</p> <p><u>Contractors:</u> Shane Callahan, AlasConnect.</p> <p><u>Interior Delegation:</u> Senator Kawasaki. Representatives Hopkins, LeBon, Prax, Talerico, Thompson, Wool and Representative-Elect Cronk.</p> <p><u>Members (Who Shared Comments):</u> District 1: Terry Chapin, Mike DeLue, Jessica Girard, Tristian Glowa, Patricia Rivera and Phil Wight. District 2: Richard Theilmann and Cathy Walling. District 3: Alison Carter and Aylissa Norris. District 4: Patrice Lee, Pastor Lou Peters and James Schwarber.</p> <p><u>Guests:</u> Frank Richards and Matt Kissinger, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation.</p> <p><i>(There were approximately 73 participants in the TEAMS meeting: board, staff, contractors, legislators, legislative staff, members, guests and others.)</i></p>
<p>CALL TO ORDER</p>	<p>Chairman DeLong called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.</p>
<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION</p>	<p>At 4:01 p.m., without objection, the board convened into executive session to discuss certain legal and financial issues (Generation/Fuel Supply – Alaska Gasline Development Corporation, Attorney Reports</p>

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EXECUTIVE SESSION (Continued)	<p>and the Benevolent Fund – “Members Serving Members”), the immediate knowledge of which could have an adverse impact on GVEA.</p> <p>At 4:59 p.m., Mr. Newman moved to come out of executive session. Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
OPEN SESSION	<p>At 5 p.m., the board convened into open session. Legislators, legislative staff, members and others joined the meeting via web conference.</p>
SAFETY MOMENT	<p>Mr. Burns spoke about mental and emotional well-being during the pandemic and holiday season.</p>
LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING	<p>Mr. Burns provided a PowerPoint presentation celebrating GVEA’s 75th anniversary and outlining GVEA’s future priorities. The legislators asked several questions, which Mr. Burns and Chairman DeLong answered.</p> <p>The briefing ended at 5:57 p.m.</p> <p>At 5:58 p.m., Chairman DeLong declared a 5-minute break. The meeting resumed at 6:03 p.m.</p>
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA	<p>Mr. Newman moved to approve the Agenda and adopt the Consent Agenda subject to the following modifications: moving Agenda Item 5 (Approval of the Agenda and Adoption of the Consent Agenda) to Item 4; moving Agenda Item 4 (Member Comments/MAC Report) to Agenda Item 6 and adding a Management Update on COVID Impacts and GVEA’s Disconnect Procedures as Agenda Item 5. Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed.</p> <p>The Consent Agenda included Approval of the November 23, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.</p>
COVID UPDATE	<p>Ms. Dillard gave an overview of GVEA’s efforts to assist members who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID pandemic. She reviewed the protections for members under Senate Bill (SB) 241, the steps GVEA has taken to notify and work with members, and outlined GVEA’s disconnection process as it relates to members whose accounts are in delinquent status and who have not completed the necessary COVID hardship forms required under SB 241. Those efforts include providing copies of COVID hardship forms and information about the COVID protections to members each month whose accounts are in delinquent status, providing regular updates on</p>

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<p>COVID UPDATE (Continued)</p>	<p>GVEA's website and blog account, publishing information in the Ruralite and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, as well as including information in various bill messages and bill inserts.</p> <p>Ms. Connor reported that for the period December 2, 2020 through December 14, 2020, 162 accounts were disconnected and of those accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power was restored to 29 accounts, once the members completed the COVID paperwork. • Power was restored to 77 accounts, because members paid their delinquent balances in full or entered into a payment agreement. • Power was restored to 12 accounts because landlords or new members have signed into those locations. <p>Ms. Connor also reported that as of November 30, 2020, there were 1,532 delinquent accounts. Of those accounts, 782 members (50 percent) have signed COVID financial hardship forms.</p> <p>In closing the discussion, Ms. Dillard reported that GVEA is extending the protection as outlined in SB 241 to those members who complete the COVID hardship forms until January 31, 2021.</p> <p>The board asked several questions, which Mesdames Dillard and Connor answered.</p>
<p>MEMBER COMMENTS</p>	<p>Ms. Walling commented on the Legislative Briefing and the COVID Update, requested that the December 15 moratorium for disconnects be extended and voiced her support for on-bill financing.</p> <p>Mr. Chapin thanked GVEA for the Legislative Briefing and for the attitudes of respect and compassion for members who are struggling during the pandemic. He suggested that members who are struggling financially reach out to local organizations who are offering support.</p> <p>Mr. Schwarber commended the board for the proposed Benevolent Fund, requested that the moratorium for disconnects be extended and said he supports tariffed on-bill financing.</p> <p>Mr. DeLue said the COVID Update was informative, stated impacts from the pandemic are affecting members differently throughout our communities, and asked GVEA to continue to work with members to prevent disconnects.</p> <p>Mr. Glowa said he appreciated the Legislative Briefing and GVEA's response to the pandemic. He added that as the pandemic continues to exist, GVEA should extend the moratorium disconnection date.</p>

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<p>MEMBER COMMENTS (Continued)</p>	<p>Ms. Rivera thanked GVEA for the Legislative Briefing and asked that the deadline for disconnects be extended until the pandemic is over.</p> <p>Ms. Carter asked that the disconnect moratorium date be extended and suggested that GVEA use capital credits funds to help members pay bills.</p> <p>Pastor Peters thanked GVEA for their efforts to assist members during the pandemic and requested the disconnect moratorium date be extended until the Benevolent Fund is up and running.</p> <p>Ms. Girard echoed others' comments to extend the disconnect moratorium date for as long as possible and expressed her support for broadband.</p> <p>Mr. Wight thanked the board and staff for the informative Legislative Briefing and asked for clarifications regarding disconnections and payment plans for members who have not signed COVID hardship forms.</p>
<p>BREAK</p>	<p>At 7 p.m., Chairman DeLong declared a five-minute break.</p>
<p>MAC REPORT</p>	<p>Mr. Theilmann reported on the December 9, 2020 MAC Meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Norris gave a brief update on the recent meetings of the MAC Task Force and their recommendations for structuring an On-Bill Financing Pilot Program that will soon be forwarded to the board.</p>
<p>REVIEW SAFETY OFFICER'S NOVEMBER 2020 REPORT</p>	<p>Mr. Newman moved to let the record reflect that the board reviewed the Safety Officer's November 2020 Report. Mr. Bunch seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed.</p>
<p>APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE GOOD&CENTS BOARD OF TRUSTEES</p>	<p>Mr. Sloan moved to appoint Bernard Gatewood to Seat A and Chris Bunch as the GVEA Board Representative on the Good&cents Board of Trustees. Mr. Solie seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
<p>APPROVE RESOLUTION 115-20: APPROVING THE CREATION OF A BENEVOLENT FUND – "MEMBERS SERVING MEMBERS" – AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND</p>	<p>Chairman DeLong introduced Resolution No. 115-20:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPROVING THE CREATION OF A BENEVOLENT FUND – "MEMBERS SERVING MEMBERS" – AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHEREAS, in March 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency related to the on-going Coronavirus (COVID) pandemic, and subsequently issued a moratorium prohibiting the disconnection of electric services until November 15, 2020 involving residential members who experienced financial hardship due to COVID;</p>

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<p>APPROVE RESOLUTION 115-20: APPROVING THE CREATION OF A BENEVOLENT FUND – “MEMBERS SERVING MEMBERS” – AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND (Continued)</p>	<p>WHEREAS, the disconnect moratorium expired on November 15, 2020, and GVEA has resumed disconnecting electric service to members whose electric accounts are delinquent and who have not yet submitted the COVID hardship declaration forms required by Alaska Senate Bill 241;</p> <p>WHEREAS, the number of GVEA delinquent residential electric accounts has more than doubled since March 2020;</p> <p>WHEREAS, GVEA anticipates that some members who are experiencing financial hardships, whether related to COVID or due to other circumstances, may not have the financial ability to pay delinquent balances on their electric accounts without financial assistance;</p> <p>WHEREAS, because of the financial impacts caused by COVID, GVEA desires to create a Benevolent Fund – “Members Serving Members” – to provide financial assistance to those members who are experiencing financial hardship and who, although they have contacted GVEA and entered into a payment plan, nonetheless, require additional financial assistance in order to avoid their electric service being disconnected;</p> <p>WHEREAS, because community members have also expressed an interest in providing financial aid to members who need assistance in paying delinquent electric bills, the Benevolent Fund will accept contributions from these charitable donors;</p> <p>WHEREAS, GVEA policy 2.2(II)(C)(6), states that any donations by GVEA exceeding \$500 per donation, or \$5,000 per calendar year must be approved in advance by the Board;</p> <p>WHEREAS, GVEA proposes an initial contribution of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) from non-operating funds with which to establish the Benevolent Fund. These non-operating funds will not affect operations and will have no impact on GVEA’s electric rates. The Benevolent Fund will be administered by a third-party provider.</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that GVEA’s Board of Directors hereby establishes the GVEA Benevolent Fund – “Members Serving Members” – and authorizes GVEA’s President & Chief Executive Officer to take whatever actions are necessary to create and administer the Fund, including the execution of any required documentation and third-party administrative agreements. The Board further authorizes GVEA to make a contribution to the Benevolent Fund in the amount of \$250,000 from non-operating funds.</p> <p>Mr. Bunch moved to approve Resolution No. 115-20. Mr. Newman seconded the motion. Following significant discussion in favor of the motion, the motion passed.</p>
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EXTEND THE MEETING	At 7:30 p.m., Chairman DeLong extended the meeting for 30 minutes.
ON-GOING REPORTS	<p>ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION (APA) REPORT – Mr. Sloan reported on the 2020 APA December Meeting Series that was held on December 2 - 3, 2020.</p> <p>ARECA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT – Mr. Solie reported on the December 3, 2020 ARECA Educational Foundation Membership Meeting.</p> <p>ALASKA RAILBELT COOPERATIVE TRANSMISSION & ELECTRIC COMPANY (ARCTEC) REPORT – Chairman DeLong reported on the status and goals of ARCTEC’s strategic planning sessions.</p> <p>GOODϕENTS REPORT – Mr. DeLong reported on the November 24, 2020 Goodϕents Board of Trustees Meeting.</p> <p>MAC REPORT – Mr. Newman reported on the December 9, 2020 MAC Meeting.</p>
MANAGEMENT REPORTS	<p>SNAP SUMMARY – The November 2020 SNAP Summary was included in the board packet.</p> <p>FINANCIAL REPORTS/FORM 7 – The November 2020 Form 7 was included in the board packet.</p> <p>PROGRESS REPORTS – The board asked questions regarding progress reports included in the board packet, which Mr. Burns and staff answered.</p>
EXTEND THE MEETING	At 8 p.m., Mr. Sloan moved to extend the meeting for 20 minutes. Mr. Bunch seconded the motion. The motion passed.
DIRECTOR COMMENTS	<p>Mr. Benson commented appreciatively on the time and efforts put in by GVEA staff in establishing the Benevolent Fund.</p> <p>Mr. Bunch said he looks forward to serving on the Goodϕents Board of Trustees, is excited about the Benevolent Fund, and appreciated legislators attending the Legislative Briefing. He thanked staff for their hard work and wished everyone happy holidays.</p> <p>Mr. Sloan thanked Mr. Burns for the great Legislative Briefing presentation, said he is glad that the Benevolent Fund is being established and wished everyone happy holidays.</p> <p>Mr. Solie thanked everyone for a good meeting, Mr. Newman for his passion for GVEA history and Mr. Burns, Ms. Dillard and staff for their work on the Benevolent Fund.</p>

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DIRECTOR COMMENTS (Continued)	<p>Mr. Messier said it was nice to have membership participation during the meeting, and he appreciates serving as GVEA's alternate on the ARCTEC Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Mr. Newman thanked staff for the great Legislative Briefing, he looks forward to the celebrations in honor of GVEA's 75th anniversary, and commented on RCA hearings related to SB 123, upcoming ACEP presentations and a NRECA battery storage forum.</p> <p>Mr. DeLong commented on the RCA hearings related to SB 123. He also reported that on December 10, 2020, he met with the District 4 and 7 Nominating Committees (on behalf of Secretary Newman, since Mr. Newman is running for reelection in 2021), to provide a perspective on the responsibilities that come with serving on the board.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	At 8:16 p.m., without objection, Mr. Newman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sloan seconded the motion. The motion passed.


Tom DeLong, Chairman

1-26-2021


Gary Newman, Secretary


Susan Redlin, Recording Secretary