

Espanola

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Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative \*

# Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 128, Espanola, New Mexico, 87532

# MINUTES OF THE JEMEZ MOUNTAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024, at 9:00 AM HERNANDEZ, NEW MEXICO

#### 1. Call to Order

This meeting of the Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President Dennis Trujillo at 9:13 a.m. on the above-cited date, at the JMEC Headquarters, 19365 S.R. 84/285, Hernandez, New Mexico.

2. & 3. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call confirmed a quorum as follows:

### **Trustees Present:**

Dennis Trujillo, President Manuel Bustos, Vice President Danny Velarde, Secretary Dolores McCoy, Treasurer Dennis Gallegos, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Lucas J. Cordova Henry Roybal (via WebEx) Marissa Maestas-Muller Marcie Martinez John Ramon Vigil (via WebEx)

# Trustee(s) Excused:

Elias Coriz (at Tri-state)

### **JMEC Staff Present:**

Joseph Sanchez, General Manager and CEO Geraldine Romero, CFO Lenny Ortiz, Vegetation Manager Tomas Barela, Facilities Manager

### Others Present:

Joseph Yar, JMEC General Counsel

## 4. REMARKS FROM JMEC MEMBERS -

There were no new remarks by JMEC members at this time.

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board considered Approval of the October 25, 2024, agenda, the September 27, 2024, Regular Board meeting minutes, and the October 15, 2024 Special Board meeting minutes with no amendments.

**ACTION:** With no changes being introduced, Mr. Cordova made the motion to approve the agenda and minutes, Mr. Velarde seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

### 6. BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Romero presented the financial report, the financial report consisted of the Income Statement, the year to date actual versus the year-to-date budget. Ms. Romero stated that they have come in less on actuals and on budget. Ms. Romero also stated that the average membership power bill has been lower due to weather conditions. Total operating margins are still slightly in the negative. The projected earnings are ending the year on a positive margin. Ms. Romero also stated that there will be an increase in allocations to vegetation management. Ms. Romero asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Trujillo inquired about the status of the FEMA insurance claim updates.

Mr. Sanchez stated that he spoke with the representative for the FEMA claims, the representative wanted JMEC to make amendments to the procurement policy to proceed further with the claim. The policy will be passed through the JMEC Policy Committee.

Mrs. McCoy proceeded to give the Financial Committee Report. Mrs. McCoy continued with asking the board if they had questions about the credit card charges, attorney expenses, consulting expenses, and trustee vouchers. No members of the board had questions about the financial report at this time.

**ACTION:** Mrs. McCoy moved to approve the finances for September, Mr. Roybal seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

#### 7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Mr. Sanchez gave an update of the four-year work plan. JMEC has currently turned environmentalist consultant that is doing the environmental plan to submit it to the RUS system for approval.

Mr. Sanchez gave an update on the metering project, he stated that to date JMEC has installed about 3400 census meters total, 1000 have been in last few months. Mr. Sanchez stated that JMEC will install four new collectors, in Nambe, Abiquiu, Torreon, and Jemez springs areas.

#### 8. COMMITTEE UPDATES

## a. Policy Committee

Ms. Martinez noted that discussions are ongoing regarding which policies should be prioritized, with a focus on those that have already been identified as key. The Safety Committee policy has been discussed briefly, but there are additional priorities, including the review of the Compensation Policy. The current stipend for all meetings has been set at \$150, a new task will be to complete a stipend list of other cooperatives in comparison. The discussion of the virtual including full compensation for in person attendance and half compensation for virtual attendance. There were no further questions about the policy committee.

### b. Communications Committee

Ms. Martinez noted that the Communications Committee has been working on the JMEC metering article about making a few more changes, to make the article a bit more personal. The employee spotlight was discussed, and the employee of the month was Brian Montoya. She stated a new section will be incorporated in January for members who want to contribute to Enchantment. The topics for discussion for the January article are the youth tour, EV charging, and grants in process.

### c. Vegetation Committee

Mr. Lenny Ortiz will be giving the presentation regarding the awards. Mr. Ortiz stated the RFP's put out were pertinent to the La Mesilla, Alcalde, and Hernandez circuit. There was a pre-bid mandatory meeting held on September 12, 2024. The listing had been on the JMEC website since August 28th, 2024. The information was emailed to 15 contractors, only four of the contracts did attend. The bids were due October 14th, 2024, and upon opening of the bid, only one contractor submitted a bid. The sole contractor who submitted

a bid for all three circuits was Asplundh tree services. The recommendation for the award of the contract to Asplundh for the Alcalde circuit was brought forward.

Mr. Cordova stated that there was also a discussion of bringing in a JMEC in house crew as well.

**ACTION:** Mr. Cordova made the motion to award the contract to Asplundh for the Alcalde circuit, the motion was seconded by Mr. Bustos. The vote passed unanimously.

#### 9. OTHER REPORTS

### a. President's Report

Mr. Trujillo reported that he had three things he wanted to inform the board about. Himself, Mr. Sanchez, Mr. Yar and Mr. Roybal, did have a discussion with Jemez Pueblo, to verify they are both still in agreement. There will be a person meeting in the next few weeks. Mr. Trujillo states that he did attend a Kit Carson broadband groundbreaking ceremony at the Abiquiu Inn, he was a guest speaker. Mr. Trujillo noted that although there has not been a formal agreement with a specific entity for broadband, that Kit Carson is still proceeding, and we will have to verify the legalities of the potential agreement. Mr. Trujillo also mentioned that there has been a day selected for the strategic planning meeting which will be held on November 22, 2024. Due to the selection of the strategic planning meeting, the regular November board meeting has been moved to Thursday, November 21, 2024.

### b. Statewide Report

Mr. Bustos reported that statewide discussed there is an evaluation for a potential contract and increase in raise for the CEO. Mr. Bustos also stated that he had a meeting with Martin Heinreich with details to be discussed in the executive session. Mr. Bustos did remind the board of a meeting occurring in the upcoming week at the Santa Ana Casino. Mr. Bustos also mentioned that the JMEC should have more of an influence at statewide, to achieve that, he mentioned possibly serving on other committee to conclude his report.

### c. Tri-State Report

Mr. Sanchez did give an update on behalf of Mr. Coriz, the Tri-State Chair. Tri-state held a Special Board Meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the board did approve the 2025 budget which resulted in a no rate increase. On September 17th, 2024, the contract committee met regarding the contract termination, payoff tariff, bring your own resource program, and formulary rate. Regional member meetings are underway, these meetings will consist of reliability and wholesale rates. Mr. Sanchez informed the board of a Tri-State meeting

occurring on October 30<sup>,</sup> 2024, at the Santa Ana Casino, consisting of all NM Senior staff, managers, and local board members. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, following approval of Phase I of Tri-state's 23 Electric Resource plan, they issued three separate requests for proposals through 2031.

### 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**ACTION:** Motion by Mr. Velarde at 10:59 am to enter Executive Session. Seconded by Ms. Martinez. The vote passed unanimously.

### 11. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed by the board at this time.

### 12. ADJOURN

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to come before the Board, President Trujillo adjourned this meeting at 2:52 p.m.

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APPROVED:

President, Dennis Trujillo

Secretary Danny Velarde