

**Beatty Town Advisory Board
100 A Avenue South
P.O. Box 837
Beatty, NV 89003**

**Minutes
02/11/19**

**THE BEATTY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT 6:30 PM IN THE BEATTY COMMUNITY CENTER.
THE BEATTY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD HEREAFTER WILL BE REFERRED TO AS THE (BTAB)
THE BEATTY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS HEREAFTER WILL BE REFERRED TO AS THEIR RESPECTIVE INITIALS.**

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**Dick Gardner (DG) – Chair
Randy Reed (RR) – Vice Chair
Erika Gerling (EG) – Treasurer
Kelly Carroll (KC) – Member
Crystal Taylor (CT) – Member - AB**

1 Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order 6:30 pm

DG – Stated for the record, Crystal Taylor is not here.

2 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit per person.) Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item.

Albert Verrilli; Beatty Economic Development (BEDC) – Stated that Kitty Schubert one of the BEDC Board members tendered her resignation. This was due to a fortunate circumstance for her, she had the opportunity to pursue something and there was going to be a conflict for her to be in another organization.

3 Approval of the Agenda for the BTAB meeting of February 11, 2019

Staff pulled item 5 Emergency Items and item 7 Consent Agenda Items

4 For Possible Action – Approval of the minutes dated; January 28, 2019

RR - Motion to approve the minutes dated January 28, 2019; Second EG; 4-0

5 Emergency Items

Pulled

6 Board Member's Comments (This item limited to announcements or topics/issues proposed for future workshops/agendas)

KC; EG; RR; DG – None

7 Consent Agenda Items – These are items that Staff recommends for approval. The Board reserves the right to move any consent agenda item to the regular segment of the agenda should issues arise that need to be addressed.

Pulled

8 Reports

DG – Stated nobody has called in and Albert you reported for BEDC. I see Marty Campbell is here.

- i. **Beatty Chamber** – None
- ii. **Beatty Habitat Committee** - None
- iii. **Beatty Library** – None
- iv. **Beatty Medical Clinic** – None
- v. **Beatty Museum** – None
- vi. **Beatty Senior Center** – Marty Campbell– Stated there was no food service today because the staff was out ill. Bingo money is going to Nye County Senior Nutrition, \$300.00, every month for soup and salad which we're supposed to have every day. There will be a Valentines lunch on Valentine's Day and Bingo is this Thursday night.
- vii. **Beatty Volunteer Fire/Ambulance** – None
- viii. **Commissioner's** – None
- ix. **Desert Hills Cemetery** – None
- x. **Nye County Emergency Services** – None
- xi. **Nye County Sheriff's Department** – None
- xii. **Ordinances** – None
- xiii. **Other**
 - Beatty Economic Development, Inc (BEDC)** – None
 - Beatty General Improvement District (BGID)** - None
 - Beatty Water & Sanitation District (BWSD)** – None
 - Beatty Boy Scouts** - None
 - Beatty Health & Welfare** - None
 - Other Community or Civic Organizations** – DG – Stated that Brandi with Nevada Veteran Services will be here Thursday the 14th from 10am to 2pm
- xiv. **Secretary** - None
- xv. **Treasurer**

EG – Stated that 58% of the year has passed and all our departments are doing good.

9 General Business

- a. **For Possible Action – Discussion, deliberation and decision to send a letter to Valley Electric/Valley Communication about the fiber internet rate increase effective February 1, 2019. – Erika Gerling**

EG – Stated Beth and Mike were here last time and informed us about this increase and I was really surprised and I just feel that we need to say something. We can ask them to look at it again or as it says in the letter, review and rescind. You know we haven't had this service for three years, we've barely had it long enough to decide if we like it any better than what we had before. I just... there was no notice and then February 1st your rates going up. So, I just felt the need to... that we should say something. What do you guys think?

DG – Stated I personally agree with EG. Gosh we just put that thing in there and then all of a sudden they're jacking it (the rate) up and if it was all available when they first promised it to everybody that would have been over a year ago or longer. We kept waiting down there at the Post, we kept waiting and waiting and waiting and we finally get it in and then they're going to raise the prices. Still it maybe a little better than Direct TV but...

Unidentified Audience – Asked so are you guys writing a formal letter?

DG – Stated yes and asked EG to read the letter.

General Business 9a continued

EG – Read the letter.

RR – Stated I like the letter, it's good.

Albert Verrilli – Stated he got a letter about the things being discussed and it included the increase in the electric rate and facility charge. I'd like to at some point, I understand it's out of the context of what you are doing now because of the wording of the agenda item. In the larger context, we've been getting these rosy pictures and this wonderful stuff that's going on and all of this good stuff is coming, building that line, selling it, one hundred million dollars involved, all these other services coming in, great projections, how wonderful everything is going and suddenly it's all reversing. Something should have been anticipated, what was the Board doing? I don't feel that the reason for the sudden change in leadership has ever been explained. Is there something else going on? Did the Board invite them to leave? Was there another opportunity going, what happened? Does that speak to oversight on the Board to have projected this? At the meeting that Ms. Evans was at, she did mention the internet, when she came up to Beatty, she was making a tour. She did mention that and she pretty much flat out, as I remember it, indicated that they had overreached on that and they didn't have realistic projections. But, still they've been getting a lot of press for it; it's just all building up. So, I guess the question is where was the oversight at that point? Because that oversight really comes from the Board and while we have a new CEO, we have the same Board and what are they going to do about it, do a review of their own oversight and explain why things have changed? The power rate increase, if you follow some of the blogs from like E-Dive, or something on there (the internet), power costs are generally down around the whole country. They're down around three cents a kilo-watt hour. So, they (power costs) haven't been spiking, they're going down, their other administrative costs are down. There are reliance issues, and redundancy issues that don't necessarily drive up costs but it's (the rate increase) not based on the cost of power. That's not the National trend by any means, quite the opposite and there's a whole slew of other things going on in the power industry, with rate reductions and distributed power, battery backup and all kinds of things just changing the whole nature of the industry. Power, now, is pretty cheap to generate. So, again, I digress a little bit, where was the oversight? So we're not going to get these rosy forecasts and pictures, and great publicity in slick magazines and then just up the facility charge, rate increases.

DG – Stated, this is something that can defiantly be brought up to them at their meeting on the 5th of March; Discussion followed.

Beth Lee; Valley Electric Key Accounts Coordinator – Stated the Town of Beatty is a Key Account for us, so by being your coordinator I'm your advocate to the co-op and the co-op's advocate to you. To help bridge that gap, there are times I get to sit at the table for some meetings, so I can say, at certain points and times, when my opinion is asked for I can give it and I can say; whoa, whoa, before you do this, have you thought of this... You know, I can say things and advocate on your behalf. I was not able to do that for the rate increase. I can't really speak to a whole lot of what happened under the prior administration. There were a lot of promises made that were not realistically able to be kept, and I know that Angela can go into a lot more for that. The rate increase, it's 9%. When you actually look at that it amounts to about a penny a kilo-watt hour. So, the 9% it comes to a penny a kilo-watt hour, not too much but yet we are sensitive to the fact that there are so many people in our service area that are on fixed incomes. So, we do try not to burden them, we do try to shield you from these things. So, the facility charges that you mentioned, the facility charge or the basic service charge is the basic cost of bringing the power to you; substations, poles, wires, meters, nuts, bolts, transformers, linemen who are on call 24/7, the staff that's there to serve you. It's the whole picture of bringing power to you. So, we haven't had a rate increase in 10 years, even through the worst economic recession we've seen in a long, long, time. We kept our rates steady. So, our facility charge goes up as the cost of lumber goes up, the cost of our poles go up, the price of steel, the price of copper, labor rates, different things like that, all goes up our facilities charge, our basic service charge has not gone up, so that difference we've had to absorb. We're just now at a point we just; we can't absorb that anymore to be realistic. I know Angela is doing her very best to be very transparent with everybody. I know if you come to March 5th (meeting) and bring these up to her, I know she will answer your questions as best as possible. Some other things to take into consideration are not only the cost of the materials but the current legislation, and one of the Presidential orders was the buy American clause so a percentage of all of our products are to be American made. So any time we're working with a Federal contractor like NDOT, anytime they need to do anything, relocate power, extend for new projects, there's a large percentage of the products that we use that have to be American made. So that means we have to account for a large percentage of steel, wood, copper, wires, nuts, bolts, everything has to come from America. So sometimes those are more expensive than other areas but all of that ends up coming into the basic service charge.

Fred Summers – Asked about selling solar power back to Valley Electric if he puts in solar; Discussion Followed.

EG – Stated you might want to let whoever's coming on the 5th about these questions that are going to be coming up for them to explain. You know, it's just that a little more notice or informing, or whatever would have been really good. I appreciate you coming and telling us...

DG – Asked, you'll be there on the 5th?

Ms. Lee – Replied, I will, yes, I will be.

General Business 9a continued

EG – Clarified the five dollars; does that have anything to do with the transmission lines being sold.

Ms. Lee – Asked, on the fiber side?

EG – Clarified on the power side, for the facility charge going up?

Ms. Lee – Stated I don't know for sure. Its daily maintenance, so I don't really know for sure if that is one of the parts that figures into it, to be honest.

EG – Replied okay, thank you.

Ms. Lee – Stated I went through accounts in Beatty and have an idea of what the power increase will be; Discussion followed.

RR – Motion to send a letter to Valley Electric/Valley Communication about the fiber internet rate increase effective February 1, 2019; Second EG; 4-0

b. For Possible Action – Discussion, deliberation and decision to approve up to \$14,000.00 for five new turnouts for five new volunteers, preferred funding source Fire Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST). – Chief Michael Harmon, Beatty Volunteer Fire Department

KC – Motion to pass 9b with funds out of PSST and if not out of Fire Department Operating; Second RR; 4-0

DG – Stated I might add that we did get two bids for those turnouts and the lowest bid was also the one that they normally get their turnouts from. So, everybody's happy.

10 General Public Comment

None

11 Adjournment

KC- Motion to adjourn 6:55 pm; Second RR; 4-0