## Electric Utility Board Best Practices

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ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY

## Roles of the Electric Utility Board

**POLICY MAKING** 

CONTROLLING

PLANNING



## **Ethical Issues**

- Power:
   To influence decisions
  - To make choices
  - $\circ \mbox{To}$  determine program direction
- Use of power can impact:

   The utility
   The staff
   The community
   YOU

## Conflicts of Interest

When someone in a position of trust has competing professional and personal interests

When someone makes a decision in an official capacity and they, family members, or friends stand to profit personally

When your interests have the potential to conflict with the best interest of the organization or those you represent

## Balance Interests

- Utility board must balance needs of customers with the needs of the utility
- Policies must be fair to all customers

# General Goals of a Utility Board

- Safe, Stable, Reliable, and Affordable Energy
- Utility pay for itself
- Abide by all requirements of utility's CPCN

## Policies

#### Why have policies

- Consistent decisions
- Impersonal decisions

#### **Types of policies**

- Collections
- Grievances
- Budget
- Personnel

- Rate-setting
- Long-term planning
- Risk management
- Travel

## Roles of the Electric Utility Board

**POLICY MAKING** 

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## ROLE 2:

## Controlling

- Controlling = Monitoring
- Measuring Performance
- Tools:
  - Adequate metering and recordkeeping
    Performance Reports
    Periodic reports
  - Audit &/or audit prep

## Recommended

Reporting

- Monthly reports provided at each regular Board meeting
- Reports should be understandable and provide information that will assist the Board with making meaningful decisions
- Ensure that policies are being followed

# Controlling -Monitoring

#### Monthly

- Financial and budget reports
- Operational status reports
- Other reports

#### Periodic program reports

• Special topics

#### Annual

- Annual Performance Report (APR)
- Audit reports

# Gathering Data for Controlling

- Metering
- Accounting system
- Other system

## Financial &

Budget

Management

Reports

- Year-to-Date Revenue & Expenditure Report
- Budget to actuals
- Collections/Accounts Recievable Reports

#### Year-to-Date

## Budget

Monitoring

- Reflects
  - Budget
  - Current Month Expenditure
  - Year-To-Date Expenditure
  - Balance
  - $\circ$  % Expended
  - % Completed

#### YTD REPORT: PERIOD: <u>10/01/18 - 7/31/18</u>

COSTS	BUDGET	EXPENDED	REMAINING	%EXP	%CMPLT	COMMENTS
Personnel	142,500	132,200	10,300	93%	86%	Will be discussed at next Board meeting
Operating Expenses	32,100	14,500	17,600	45%	50%	Progressing as Planned
General & Administration	150,000	0	150,000	0	40%	Planning
Other	86,000	21,500	64,500	25%	25%	Education
TOTAL	410,600	168,200	242,400	41%		Reduction in scope of work or additional funds are needed



## Operational

Management

Reports

- Outages
- Water levels
- Fuel levels
- Generation by source
- O&M reports
- Work Order Report

## Other

## Management

Reports

- Safety
- Project updates (budget, schedule)
- Utility needs that require board approval
- Recommendations



## Roles of the Electric Utility Board

POLICY MAKING CONTROLLING PLANNING Role 3:

## Planning

- A *pathway* or route toward a desired environment
- A *decision-making process* through which a utility and utility board directs its actions in achieving goals toward the improvement
- A *tool of* change: change from existing conditions
- A continuous and dynamic process so therefore the planning effort must be kept current to correct errors in planning and to account for changing needs of the people

## **Best Practices**

for Planning

- Plan to plan—Be proactive
- Don't just focus on what can be financed by grants
- Gather data adequate and relevant for the the needs
- Explore all options
- Analyze and prioritize
- Get input from disinterested third parties

# Analysis and

## Prioritization

Process

Prioritizes issues that need to be addressed first, second, etc.

Lets you plan for the future by determining consistent patterns or emerging **Utility** trends.

Prevents you from concentrating valuable resources on minor or imagined **Utility** needs.

## Financial

#### Resources and

Assistance

Alaska Energy Authority has resources for

assisting in planning process



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