**CARA BOARD MINUTES October 12, 2023**

**Board Members Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Vice President KB3WFV (via Zoom), Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Treasurer Richard Ratcliffe W3RBR. Members attending: Don, KR3A, Dave W3PQS, Andy KC3WRX. Via Zoom: Dave KB3RAN, Ed WB6NCO, Kim K3OCM. New members: Curt KC3WVD**

The Board meeting was called to order 6:30pm

Board had a quorum of three officers present (KC3QQD, N3AE, W3RBR) note: KB3WFV dialed in later

The Board approved the September minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer reported we had $5014.74 in our bank account as of Sep 30.

Per the bylaws, both the president and treasurer should have signature authority for the bank account. Erik needs to be put on the account in place of our past president. This still needs to be done and is a carry-over action from last month.

The Board recommended that a portion of our bank balance, as much as 50%, be invested in either a higher yield account or a 6 month CD rather than sitting in a low yield account. This still needs to be done and is a carry-over action from last month.

N3AE reported that the SET went well overall. We had three teams and in total located and reported on 10 geodesic markers within the county. KC3WRX mentioned that in future deployments involving APRS tracking, as a safety measure, net control should monitor the position reports and attempt to reach a station by voice if their APRS location ping has not been seen for some time.

The Board worked on the budget for 2024 which needs to be presented to membership at the November meeting. The proposed budget appears at the end of these minutes.

N3AE mentioned that both N3IVK and K3OCM have offered to put up APRS digipeaters, N3IVK at the Lusby tower site and K3OCM at the Sunderland tower site. Both parties said they have all the equipment needed and would just need access to the tower shelters and hookup to an available 2M antenna. At Lusby, the proposed antenna is the dual band Diamond currently used for the 440 link to Sunderland (235 ft AGL on the NNE face). At Sunderland, the proposed antenna is the dual band Diamond currently used for the N3PPH DMR repeater (330 ft AGL on the SE face) or the dual band Diamond currently used for the repeater link (140 ft AGL on the south leg). The Board voted to approve the proposals but wanted a Memorandum of Understanding signed by all parties to clarify ownership and maintenance of the equipment (N3IVK & K3OCM) and release of CARA from any liability should the equipment be damaged (lightning strike, etc). The secretary was tasked to prepare the MOUs.

N3AE announced that he will submit the County forms to renew our meeting room reservations for both CARA and AUXCOMM for 2024. We hope that this will once again be without a room rental fee.

Apparently not everyone is happy with the new requirement to request Zoom login information prior to our meetings. This was done to encourage more in-person attendance but it was recognized that Zoom is still desired for those unable to travel or happen to be out of the area. Costs for Zoom is currently in the budget. K3OCM donated funds to cover Zoom for 2024 (thanks Kim).

KB3WFV suggested adding funds to cover CARA badges in the 2024 budget. The Board agreeded and added a $100 line item for badges (estimated cost…will likely be less).

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

**CARA MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES Oct, 2023**

**Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Treasurer Richard Ratcliffe W3RBR, Dave W3PQS, Don KR3A, John KQ5V, Curt KC3WVD, Andy KC3WRX**

**Via Zoom: Brian KB3WFV, Dave KB3RAN, Ed WB6NCO, Kim K3OCM.**

The meeting was called to order by President Erik Johnson at 7:38pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

The September meeting minutes were approved.

Both John, KQ5V, and Curt, KC3WVD, were voted in as new CARA members. Welcome to John and Curt! As a newly licensed operator, Curt has free membership for the year in which he was licensed.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer reported we had $5014.74 in our bank account as of Sep 30.

The repeater committee reported no new issues with the system. While at the EOC checking gear for the SET, N3AE saw Stanley Harris and discussed the antenna problems found at Lusby and Mt Hope during the drone video survey. Stanley said “it would be fixed” but didn’t offer a schedule. N3AE recommended that all three Diamond X300NA antennas and their jumpers to their hardlines be replaced since that cost would be a fraction of what the County will pay for a climber anyway. The problems include severely bent radials (link antenna at Lusby), missing attachment bolts, and missing/loose clamps on the antenna jumpers.

The slate of officers for 2024 closed at the end of this meeting and is provided to the membership here in accordance with the bylaws. The slate consists of the following. All are running unopposed.

President - KB3WFV Brian

Vice President - KC3QQD Erik

Secretary - N3AE Shawn

Treasurer - W3RBR Dick

Director - W3PQS Dave

Note: The Treasurer would like to pass on his position to another willing CARA member. Voting will be at the November 9th 7:30pm meeting at the Harriet Brown Community Center. An open vote may be taken for any candidate who is unopposed. Newly elected Board Members will take office on January 1st.

There was a discussion on the proposed new digipeaters as mentioned in the above Board minutes. The membership saw no reason not to proceed but since N3IVK was not present, wanted to run the idea of a MOU past him first. Several days after the meeting, the secretary discussed this with N3IVK and he had no problem with a MOU as described.

The 50-50 came in at $26.00 and the entire amount was donated to the club by the winner, W3PQS. Thanks Dave!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm

Remaining events for 2023:

Nov - Nov 9th CARA meeting with election of officers for 2024

Nov 16th Public Meeting on new Calvert Zoning Ordinance including sections that affect amateur radio towers. 7pm at the Harriet Brown Community Center

DEC - Christmas Party – Date/Location TBD

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024**

