**CARA BOARD MINUTES November 9, 2023**

**Board Members Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Treasurer Richard Ratcliffe W3RBR. Members attending: Don KR3A.**

**Via Zoom: Dave KB3RAN, Dale N3ILH**

The Board meeting was called to order 6:30pm

Board had a quorum of three officers present (KC3QQD, N3AE, W3RBR)

The Board approved the October Board minutes.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer reported we had $5077.74 in our bank account as of Oct 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 still a carry-over action from the last several months.

The Board had previously 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. One of the challenges is finding a higher yield investment that doesn’t have a high minimum deposit and doesn’t tie up the funds for a long period of time.

N3AE reported that the County did get back to us about the damaged/poorly installed antennas on the Lusby tower (two antennas) and the Sunderland tower (one antenna). The County was asking if a more robust commercial grade antenna model was available. To the best of our knowledge, no one makes a commercial grade dual band antenna for 2M and 70cm. While we did not get a schedule commitment from the County, our recommendation was to purchase replacement Diamond X300NA antennas and replace both the antennas, jumpers and feedline clamps.

The president was still working on a venue for our December holiday party. At the conclusion of the meeting an application was submitted to hold a pot luck dinner at Harriet Brown, with a couple of potential dates provided. At the time these minutes are being prepared, the outcome of the application is unknown.

N3IVK has installed his APRS digipeater at the Lusby tower site and it’s up and running as N3IVK-14. Coverage is very good. N3AE has taken the RACES packet station out of APRS digipeater service for now. K3OCM has similar plans for the Sunderland tower. The Board 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 prepared these MOU’s and they are acceptable to both N3IVK and K3OCM but have not been officially signed yet.

N3AE announced that Calvert AUXCOMM had a new member, Mike Clark, N1JMC. A warm welcome to Mike.

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm

**CARA MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES Nov 9, 2023**

**Attending: President Erik Johnson KC3QQD, Secretary Shawn Donley N3AE, Treasurer Richard Ratcliffe W3RBR, Don KR3A, Curt KC3WVD, Andy KC3WRX, Matt N3IVK, Peter N3PH**

**Via Zoom: Dave KB3RAN, Dale N3ILH, Dave W3PQS, Kim K3OCM, Brian KB3WFV**

The meeting was called to order by President Erik Johnson at 7:30pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

The October meeting minutes were approved.

No new member applications were received.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer reported we had $5077.74 in our bank account as of Oct 30.

The slate of officers for 2024, listed below and running unopposed, were elected to serve by the membership present.

President - KB3WFV Brian

Vice President - KC3QQD Erik

Secretary - N3AE Shawn

Treasurer - W3RBR Dick

Director - W3PQS Dave

Note: The Treasurer would still like to pass on his position to another willing CARA member.

The proposed budget, submitted by the Board last month, was approved by the membership. Note: The budget appears in the October meeting minutes.

K3OCM is planning to install an APRS digipeater at the Sunderland tower site sometime the week of Thanksgiving. N3IVK’s APRS digipeater is up and running at the Lusby tower site.

N3AE mentioned that the newly appointed co-Coordinator for the Drum Point Safety Committee, Mr. John Latham, is interested in getting a volunteer or two to take over the care and feeding of the amateur radio station at the Drum Point Property Owners Office. This equipment was previously tended to by KB3SXB (SK). Ideally the volunteer would live in the community and be readily available to man the station in an emergency, plus periodically make sure it’s functioning properly.

The president assigned an audit committee for 2024 consisting of N3PH, KC3WVD and K3OCM. The audit committee should report out to the membership at the spring General Meeting.

Some members reported that our repeater voice identification is cutting off the leading “K.” This could be due to the time delay for opening the tone squelch in a receiver or it might be an actual problem with the controller. Members are asked to monitor both with and without tone squelch activated on their radios.

The 50-50 came in at $35.00 of which $30.00 was donated to the club by the winner, KR3A. Thanks Don!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Remaining events for 2023:

DEC - Christmas Party – Date/Location TBD