

**FINLAND COOPERATIVE**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 11, 2022**

**Board members present:** Andy Gomez, Sue Rian, Teresa Anderson, Cory Holden, Pete Walsh, Bob Sanders (due to notification delay came at 6:33 pm), and store manager Jonathan Beauchane.

**Absent:** Katee Ristuccia

**Others present:** None

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm by President Andy. With Honor Schauland's departure from the board as of the recent Annual Meeting, Cory was asked and agreed to be temporary Secretary until full board can meet to elect new officers.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, with motion to approve made by Pete, seconded by Sue. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** With Katee absent, the report will be postponed/updated at September meeting. Pete asked what treasurer was responsible for and what the board account was used for. Basically, Christmas party, miscellaneous necessities (IE-not much). Upon reflection, Teresa recalled Katee's desire to no longer be Treasurer and mentions that she would be willing to step into that role if needed.

**New Shares to approve and sign:** Kathy Chumley, Jamin Cousins, Kevin Haveri, Brian Jones, Brian Kleczewski, Chad Olson, Robert Sanders, Elizabeth Storm, Syd Trimble, Jennifer Yandrasits, Ann Browning Zerby. A motion was made by Sue, seconded by Andy to accept new shares. All in favor. Because the President and Secretary are the signers on new shares, a motion was made by Sue, seconded by Teresa, to appoint Cory Holden as Secretary. All in favor.

**Manager's Report:** Jonathan found a Secretary of State letter in the office that referenced the community fund and gave it to President Andy to file. Coop Scholarship recipients Wyatt Parker and Hannah Thums both sent proof of enrollment, but it was discussed that awarded funds are only to be released upon the completion of one full quarter or semester.

[Interjection: In relation to making sure board duties and officer changes can be duly recorded and submitted to NSFCU in a timely manner, a motion was made by Sue, seconded by Pete to appoint Teresa Anderson as Treasurer. All in favor.]

Jonathan submitted his mileage reports for the last two months for approval, mentioning some special added mileage due to a forged check incident and subsequent travel to retrieve the merchandise involved. This resulted in a refresher and updating of check acceptance procedures at the store. A motion was made by Andy, seconded by Cory to approve the mileage reports. All in favor. The work related to repairing the 'spill buckets' and caps (petro tank fill ports) and front deteriorated pump island was noted to be higher due to more extensive issues. All in all, 2 new spill buckets were installed and 3 concrete caps repoured by MN Petroleum. Brad Anderson also brought in several loads of class 5 gravel to finish around the whole pump/tank area to bring back up to grade and for better drainage purposes as well. The tanks all physically checked to be free from water/moisture, but MN Petroleum will come back to 'vacuum' the tanks as a periodic maintenance item and double check moisture sensors upon completion. (Both diesel tank sensors are showing moisture/water even though no water present, while both unleaded tanks show '0') Ric Lindberg and Tom Klinker are working on the new loading dock and it is going well. The dock will allow trucks to come in at an angle so they will not block access to township road behind store, which will also keep trucks out of the well noted frost-prone area that pops up every spring. They also found open crawlspace access under the dock leading under the hardware section of the store, and it was agreed that it should be repaired to keep critters and cold temps from the space, possibly aiding in a reduction in heating cost. There was a reminder of the slight shifting of the block foundation around the same back corner of the store, with full potential repair to be fairly costly.

Though it is structurally ok at the moment, Teresa mentioned that perhaps Doug Anderson could be called in to see if his foundation lifting/jacking services would be useful and sufficient in stabilizing the foundation in that area. Jonathan also mentioned a demo/tasting event scheduled for Aug. 24 put on by Y-Ker Acres, a local pasture-raised pork producer. Andy asked about status of P.O.S. upgrade plans, with Jonathan stating that he was waiting to see fuel and dock projects completed first to spread some of the costs out a bit. However, he was encouraged to note and make everyone aware of the positive trend showing on the balance sheet now that the financials have been brought up to date.

**Old Business:** Abandoned Equity project – Bob Sanders (now a board member since his nomination/election at the recent annual meeting) has entered nearly all known shareholders into a new database for the purposes of ascertaining both total and currently active membership. Ultimately, this will lead to better management of our membership rolls. Bob has talked with Honor about some of the scope of the project, but it is agreed that we should ask her to come to one of the next board meetings to help everyone more fully understand and bring continuity into this issue. There are some old 3.5 floppy disks at the store that may have pertinent member info on them. Jonathan will purchase an external floppy drive to try and access them (they're old school and not included in newer computers!) Teresa agreed to invite Honor to come to a future board meeting.

Land/Building Committee – Pete mentioned that he still hopes to invite Pete Makowski (Sen. Tina Smith's aide) to one of our board meetings to discuss potential of special funding for such a unique, historical and vital community enterprise such as our little Co-op is. Pete also reminds everyone to drive up to check out the Zup's grocery store in Cook for ideas in how a small town grocery can survive and thrive. Cory adds that each of us should brainstorm any and all ideas about what could/should be incorporated into a new store concept for our community-the sky is the limit at this point! Pete also suggests that community engagement could be solicited via Friends of Finland website/FB page.

Advertising policy – it had been mentioned that we should consider ramifications of advertising on the store in the form of banners, signage, notices that may compete with the store's own products/services. After some discussion, Jonathan agrees to revisit and update the store posting board and advertising policy. EBT – is up and running again! Elaine posted its operability on FB and it is being used pretty much daily now.

**New Business:** None added. Next regular meeting scheduled for Sept. 8 @ 7 PM.

A motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm was made by Teresa, seconded by Sue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory Holden, Secretary