

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
OTZ TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
May 26, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

Marie Kasinaluk Greene greeted everyone ariigaa good evening, everyone, taikuu thank you so much for joining us this evening we sure appreciate it. Before we get started, I would like to have a moment of silence, for the past 3 years we've lost some loved ones due to the pandemic.

Then call upon Judy Stein for the invocation.

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the board of directors, to call the annual meeting to order, it is now 6:35 pm p.m. on May 26, 2023.

**II. Invocation**

Marie Greene then called upon Judy Stein to call up the blessings for our annual meeting this evening.

**III. Determination of Quorum**

Marie Greene checked with Solena Scott-Gallahorn, Kahia Baldwin and Gladys Ralston about the members' attendance. We have 29 in person members for us to have a quorum, we need 50 members, however we do have a quorum for the mail in ballots over 100, so we are going to proceed with our annual meeting. Doing that we won't be approving the minutes, due to no in person quorum, there will be no motions made on the floor, but we will be proceeding with reports and the election results.

**IV. Early Bird Drawing**

Marie Greene proceeds the early bird prizes. Before we do that, I would like to introduce the board of directors. We have Larry Jones, VP of the board, Billy Lee, he is a new board member, Eunice Hadley, and Elsie Dexter. Call upon the board members to take care of the early bird drawing, thank you Cindy and team for thinking about that.

In person drawing- Ellen Booth, OTZ (Axe)  
Mail in- Emma Monroe, WTK (Axe)  
In person- Lavisia Wells, OTZ (Folding Table)  
Mail in- Carol Schaeffer, OTZ (Folding Table)  
In person- Ann Howarth, OTZ (Camp Cooking Set)  
Mail in- Katherine Uhl, OTZ (Camp Cooking Set)  
In person- Annabelle Alvite, OTZ (Knife Set)  
Mail in- Maureen Ticket, WLK (Knife Set)  
In person- Morris Douglas, OTZ (Sleeping Bag)  
Mail in- Kathy Douglas OTZ (Sleeping Bag)

**V. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2023**

Marie Greene stated that since we do not have a quorum, we cannot approve the minutes, so we will go on with the election of the 3 directors.

**VI. Election of Three Directors – from District 1 (Ambler, Kobuk, Shungnak); District 5 (Kotzebue) and District 7 (Kotzebue)**

Marie Greene shared that the annual meeting notice which included the election of three board members was mailed to all members on-time as prescribed by section 3.8 of the bylaws.

District 4 (Noatak, Kivalina, Red Dog) – Carol Wesley, Enoch Adams Jr, Frank Onalik, Gretchen Booth

District 6 (Kotzebue) – Chester Ballot, Incumbent, Clay Nordlum and Hannah Loon

District 7 (Kotzebue) – Brett Connor, Clay Beck, Georgianna Phillip, Harold Lambert

Marie Greene stated as required by our bylaws, I will open the floor for any further nominations and after

a minute, hearing none, she requested a motion to close nominations.

Marie Greene asked for 3 volunteers from the membership to count the ballots. Ann Howarth, Ellen Booth, Lavis Wells. Ann Howarth will announce the results.

## **VII. New Business**

Amendment of the bylaws will be hearing the results after the ballots are counted.

## **VIII. Reports**

### **A. Board**

Marie Greene shared that we would go on to reports on behalf of the board of directors this evening, at this time I would like to call up Vice President Larry Jones to present the board report this evening.

Larry Jones said good evening, my last hoorah. On behalf of the board here are some highlights. This is the first annual meeting since covid pandemic. We upgrade our internet capacity by 300%, hired Kelly Williams as our new CEO in 2019. In 2020 we upgraded all villages to 5g spectrum for faster internet. In 2021 NWAB school district partnered with OTZ for the ECF program, there are over 600 homes connected. 2022 RUS approved our application for 30 million dollars for the broadband buildout project, Kelly Williams will go into more details about that big project. Lastly, we partnered with Native village of Kotzebue and Native village of Selawik, on the use and adoption grant, an agreement to provide 5g internet. Marie Greene said before Kelly Williams give his report, I would like to take the time to acknowledge the members of the board of directors that retired since our last in person meeting in 2019, first we have Jane Cleveland who retired in 2021 after serving on the board for 24 years. Second is Gordon Newlin after 28 years, third Larry Jones after 27 years, and Charlie Gregg served 9 years. We want to express our appreciation.

Kelly Williams thanked everyone for attending our meeting. Our audits have been very clean since I came in 2019. If you look at the last page you can see a little bit of our growth, if you look at the bottom of the page you can see our growth, we are doing really well. We upgraded our 4g in Kotzebue and our villages, we updated our capacity. We are upgrading our equipment to 5g in Kotzebue and Selawik.

### **Question and Comments**

Frank Lane said he has an OTZ cell phone but is not a member, I pay a bill, why am I not a member?

Kelly Williams thinks the board can take cell customers into consideration.

Martin Shroyer- OTZ has come a long way and I'm glad to see all the upgrades.

Frank Lane- the ladies were very helpful, when I was going to Anchorage, they made sure I knew what to do when I got down there. Thank you, Cindy Fields and all the ladies that work in the front.

Kelly Williams- we are the only telecommunication you can call the office and talk to the CEO.

Marie Greene, thank you Kelly Williams, one of the things we would like to express is our low turnover, I'm so proud of the team we have here, you are all hired and local. While we are waiting for the ballot to be counted, we will do another door prize.

## **X. Election Results**

Marie Greene then thanked the volunteers that volunteered to count the ballots for us this evening. She then asked the lead to come up this time to present the election results.

Ann Howarth then presented the election results:

District 4 (Noatak, Kivalina, Red Dog) – Carol Wesley with 40 votes, Enoch Adams Jr 28 votes, Frank Onalik 23 votes, Gretchen Booth 31 votes; highest is Carol Welsey for District 4

District 6 (Kotzebue) – Chester Ballot 50 votes, Incumbent, Clay Nordlum 46 votes and Hannah Loon 32 votes; highest is Chester Ballot for District 6

District 7 (Kotzebue) – Brett Connor 12 votes, Clay Beck 9 votes, Georgianna Phillip 43 votes,

Harold Lambert 64 votes; highest is Harold Lambert for District 7

The proposition results.

- 1- Yes 116 no 60
- 2- Yes 112 no 19
- 3- Yes 110 no 19
- 4- Yes 109 no 17
- 5- Yes 110 no 32
- 6- Yes 114 no 16
- 7- Yes 113 no 19

Marie Greene, thank you; we extend our congratulations to Carol Welsey, Chester Ballot, and Harold Lambert, and we look forward to working with you. Thank you volunteers for the work you did for us this evening.

#### **XI. Drawing of Door Prizes**

In person- May Howarth, OTZ (Lantern)

Mail in- James and Lavis Wells, OTZ (Lantern)

In person- Hannah Loon, OTZ (fishing rods)

Mail in- Lloyd Morris, ORV (fishing rods)

Grand prize

In person- Hanna Loon, OTZ (Drum of stove oil or gas)

Mail in- Arctic Chiropractic, OTZ (Drum of stove oil or gas)

#### **XII. Benediction**

Marie Greene then asked Hanna Loon for closing prayer.

#### **XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.