The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Stearns Electric Association was held on March 23, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Stearns Electric Association Headquarters Office in Melrose, Minnesota.

Miranda Wendlandt, Lead Accountant from the auditing firm of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLC and Senior Partner Craig Popenhagen presented the 2016 audit report to the Board noting there were no exceptions or findings. They stated Stearns Electric is financially strong and is operating efficiently. In closing, they thanked the management and accounting staff for their help in providing the information needed to conduct the audit. A motion to accept the 2016 Audit Report was carried.

The Co-op is currently posting for the new Systems Administrator position in IT as well as two additional Temporary Apprentice Linemen.

The billing department is gearing up for April 15th and are continuing to leave door knockers. They are also working on being proactive in reaching out to members to ensure they are receiving proper assistance if they qualify for additional crisis funding.

Manager of Engineering Matt O’Shea discussed the 42 kW solar system installed near Sauk Centre. Matt also discussed the MDMS system and the ability to share data through the system with GRE.

CEO Dave Gruenes discussed a meeting which Stearns hosted for GRE and Clean Line Energy. Clean Line Energy is currently planning to build the largest clean energy infrastructure project in the US and were interested in visiting a HVDC line in our service territory, which would be similar to the line they are looking at constructing in the Southeastern United States.

*Next Meeting: June 29, 2017*