

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2017

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President Don Nuxoll presiding, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the PUD Office at 1500 Scenic Way.

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ROLL CALL: PRESENT Commissioners: Don Nuxoll, Judy Ridge and Greg McCall.

PUD Staff: General Manager Tim Simpson.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the August 22, 2017 Regular Meeting and payment of the Transaction Vouchers covering vouchers #1911 through #1913 and Electronic Transaction Vouchers #4443EFT through #4459EFT in the amount of \$37,822.05 and Blanket Transaction Voucher Approval Document covering vouchers #37413 through #37492 and Electronic Transaction Vouchers #17090501, #17090502, #17090601, #17090801, #17091401 and #17092601 in the amount of \$336,633.90. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items presented under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Budget Hearing and Adoption

The manager requested consideration of moving the annual budget hearing and adoption from the First Monday in October to the last regular meeting in November. He stated that since our inception by vote in 1984, we have held our annual budget hearing and adoption on the first Monday in October. The reason for the timing of the budget hearing and adoption was based on state law, specifically RCW 54.16.080. As a PUD we have the authority to levy an annual tax on all taxable property within the district. This statute provides for this authority and exists also to ensure that, if we did levy a tax, the county would have adequate time to certify and provide for the collection of these taxes.

The manager stated that the original Board of Commissioners reserved the right to levy and collect taxes until the time we were able to purchase the utility from General Water. He stated that at the point in time when the Commission decided to not levy taxes and be a rate based supported utility is the time he believes that this statute regarding budget adoption ceased to apply.

The manager reported that he contacted PUD legal counsel asking for his review of the statute. Counsel concurred stating that our rate charges are not “taxes” as contemplated in the statute; therefore we do not need to follow its requirements.

The manager stated that moving the date for the annual budget hearing and adoption to the last regular meeting in November gives us more time to adequately prepare a budget for the next fiscal year and will allow us more time to coordinate with the City of Clarkston and other public agencies regarding planned projects. He stated that a motion and vote on the issue is not necessary, just concurrence with the request. The Commission supported the request but stipulated that they would like to continue having a budget hearing separate from the regular meeting in order to focus on the budget and allow our customers to provide input. The budget hearing would occur on the fourth Monday in November.

Change the Tuesday, September 25 Commission Meeting Date to Monday, September 24

The manager requested changing the next Commission meeting date from Tuesday, September 25, 2017 to Monday, September 24, 2017 due to commissioner travel to meetings. Commissioner Greg McCall stated that the change was not necessary because he would have adequate time to travel to the meeting after the regular meeting on September 26th. After further discussion, no action was taken on the request.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Capital Improvement Projects – The crew completed the water line replacement project on Schaefer Drive and Schweiter Lane before the end of August. The project replaced 1,400 feet of 2-inch galvanized and 6-inch steel water main. Today, the crew completed updating and replacing 16 customer service connections. The main line will be tied over to the 12-inch PVC line on 13th Street in order to replace the remaining old main and install new valves. The plan is to complete the tie over and paving of this section the week of September 18th but work will be coordinated with the County to ensure that it is done after the Fleshman Way/SR129 Interchange project is complete.

Lead Service Lines – The manager reported that on August 30th, crews began the process of verifying the potential services lines with lead pigtails. Services identified as potentials at 846 and 936 8th Street were dug up at the main but it was discovered that neither service lateral had a lead pigtail. Both services had copper pigtails which contradicts our mapping assumption. This is potentially a very good sign that our projected count on lead services might be lower than we think. However, this does complicate how we identify/assume which services have a lead pigtail. More sampling will need to be done to see if new assumptions can be made from our mapping or a particular area trend. There may also be no correlation to whether a copper pigtail was installed or a lead pigtail was installed. This may just be a matter of availability or convenience at the time of the installation. The crew will be checking 5 services lines on our list on Thursday and Friday of this week.

3rd Avenue Main Break – The manager stated that another claim has come forward on the main break that occurred on July 4th on a 12-inch main off of 3rd Avenue. Hells Canyon Electric had their drain field inspected and they discovered that the south leg is full of silt. The north leg was inspected and does not appear to be damaged. Today, the contractor provided an estimate on repairing the drain field in the amount of \$5,385. The commission felt that the quote was too high and directed the manager to obtain another estimate.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge attended the Public Power Council (PPC) meetings September 6-7 in Portland Oregon. She reported that there was a panel discussion on resource planning, markets and management issues by industry leaders. They spoke on how to better coordinate and gain efficiencies in the areas of resource planning, procurement and adequacy. PPC and the Bonneville Power Administration are working internally and with customers to improve its Energy Efficiency and Resource Programs. The PPC Executive Committee is working on an analysis for discussion, with PPC staff, regarding the economic arguments being used by some advocates to promote removal of the Lower Snake River dams.

Commissioner Nuxoll will be attending a Public Utility Risk Management Services (PURMS) Administrative Committee meeting on Friday, September 15th in Burien, Washington with committee member Bob Sischo.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.