

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1  
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 29, 2019

.....

President Judy Ridge 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.

.....

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

Staff: Tim Simpson.

Members of the public were present.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

**MOTION** by Commissioner Don Nuxoll and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting and payment of the Transaction Vouchers covering Vouchers #1967 – #1969 and Electronic Transaction Vouchers #4987EFT – #5002EFT in the amount of \$39,102.14 and Blanket Transaction Voucher Approval Documents covering Electronic Transaction Vouchers #123 – #128 and vouchers #39161 – #39197 in the amount of \$77,432.30. 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

There were no items presented under New Business.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Operations Activity – the manager reported that the crew has been performing various maintenance projects focusing on valve exercising. Two crew members are working on obtaining their Commercial Driver’s License.

Appleside Development – the manager reported that the Asotin County Planning Commission approved the planned 41-unit townhome development at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Appleside Boulevard on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> and the Asotin County Commissioners approved the development at their meeting on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. The development will be completed in 2 phases with 17 units completed in Phase 1 this year. Staff is currently reviewing the detailed plan and specifications.

Utility Truck Crane – the manager reported that staff received interest from an individual in Spokane regarding the purchase of the IMT 7500 Hydraulic Crane that is on the 2015 utility crew truck. Due to the stringent state crane certification requirements and costs associated with meeting these requirements the manager is recommending the surplus and sale of the crane. The new crew truck has a hand crane.

Personnel – the manager reported that 33-year employee Tom West is retiring this year. He will go on personal leave on June 3, 2019 with an effective retirement date of December 31, 2019. Tom worked one year under General Water ownership and 32 years with the PUD. The manager stated that his position will be advertised in house and those who apply will be interviewed and the best candidate will be selected. After this process is complete a utility person position will be advertised to replace Mike Smolinski who retired on December 31, 2018. The replacement for the person who take's Tom's current Serviceman position won't be filled until later this year or early next year.

Former Grumpy's Restaurant Late Comer's Agreement – the manager reported on the sewer system installation Late Comer's Agreement associated with the former Grumpy's Restaurant in the Clarkston Heights. He reported that new owners purchased the property in July 2017 but the PUD was not notified of the ownership change per the Agreement. Multiple contacts have been made to the current owner to determine if interest in the Agreement was a transferred as part of the sale. The previous owner dissolved their corporation in March 2018 and we have not received notification or documentation that shows a transfer of the Agreement. A certified letter to the new owner requesting documentation showing that interest in the Agreement was transferred was mailed today. The manager stated that he contacted our legal counsel Joe Brogan seeking guidance on the issue. Counsel stated that regardless of the Agreement transfer we are obligated under state statute to collect the funds and place them in our Capital Fund. A new connection to the developer installed sewer line initiated review of the Agreement.

City of Clarkston Wastewater System – the manager reported that he was contacted by the City of Clarkston Public Works Director, Kevin Poole stating that the City is nearly ready to move forward with the development an agreement for the PUD to manage their wastewater collection system and wastewater treatment plant with the provision of ownership once the revenue bonds used to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant can be called in December 2023. He stated that this process started in 2017 with a request from the City and was initiated on December 19, 2017 when he and Commissioner Nuxoll met with the City Public Works Committee on which three (3) councilmembers sit. At their meeting on January 2, 2018, the consensus of the Committee was to proceed with a request to the PUD to develop a proposal for managing the City's wastewater treatment plant and sewer system. The proposal would be reviewed by the Committee and then presented to the full City Council for consideration and discussion. However, the first step in this process was found out to be a state requirement to notify the union regarding the benefits and costs savings associated with PUD management. The final draft of that letter to the union will be delivered in February and will be followed by a meeting between the PUD and City Public Works Committee to begin work on details.

#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner McCall participated in the January 17, 2019 Washington PUD Association meetings via conference call. He stated that a legislative report was given on the Legislative Session that started on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The biggest news was the Governor's proposed Clean Energy Bill that would require utilities to purchase non-carbon-based energy at 80% in 2030, 90% in 2040 and 100% in 2045. Coal and natural gas energy are fossil fuels and therefore considered carbon based. Hydro energy and Nuclear are not considered carbon based and are exempt. WPUDA has signed on to support this bill because opposition would be futile. Support of the Bill will allow WPUDA to help shape the language. Other legislation discussed was wildfire prevention, solar programs and legislation to increase PUD bid limits and work that can completed by PUDs without having to go to bid for public works.

Commissioner McCall reported that WPUDA and other stakeholders are looking at ways to protect the Public Works Trust Fund from being raided by the legislature again. The latest raid on the fund was for education under the McCleary decision. During the roundtable discussion he touted our 31 years of consecutive clean financial and accountability audits.

Commissioner Ridge attended the Energy Northwest Board Meetings on January 23-25, 2019 in Richland, Washington. She reported that Clean Energy Bill was also a topic of discussion at their meetings. In addition, House Bill 1334 concerning the assault of a utility worker was discussed. An opening on the Executive Board was filled by Clark Public Utilities Commissioner Jim Malinowski after Terry Brewer was not re-elected. The EN board of directors also elected new officers. Commissioner Curt Knapp, Pend Oreille PUD, will serve as president; Commissioner Dave McKenzie, Skamania PUD, will serve as vice president; Commissioner Dean Dahlin, Lewis PUD, will serve as secretary; and Commissioner Kenneth Collins, Jefferson PUD, will serve as assistant secretary. Officers serve a two-year term. She reported that the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) recently achieved a 6-month record run lowering the regional cost of power. The Nine Canyon Wind Project is operating well and gear box problems that plagued the project early on have been minimal. This project has been in operations for 15 years producing energy at \$75/MWh. Comparatively CGS is at \$30 to \$34/MWh.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.