

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1  
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 22, 2019

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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.

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

Staff: Tim Simpson and Bob Sischo.

Port of Clarkston Commission Chairman Mark Brigham and members of the public were present.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

**MOTION** by Commissioner Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting and payment of Electronic Vouchers #5099EFT – #5115EFT in the amount of \$34,735.49 and Blanket Transaction Voucher Approval Documents covering Electronic Vouchers #19040503, #19040504, #19041903, and #19041904 and vouchers #39422 – #39451 in the amount of \$90,033.42. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program

The manager reported that staff contacted Clark Public Utilities about their CCC program and about bidding the testing of devices. They request bids from local Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT) each February and once the lowest bid is accepted a list of customers is sent to their contract BAT. Clark has two (2) full-time employees, a program director and technical Assistant, dedicated to the program. They send out notices in March, June and August. They do not employ a BAT and they stated that compliance by residential customers is voluntary. The Board directed the manager to find out the price per test for their contracted BAT tester and to seek information from the City of Pullman regarding their program.

NEW BUSINESS

Port of Clarkston Request Regarding Fiber Optic Cable Installation

The manager presented a letter from Port of Clarkston Manager, Wanda Keefer, regarding their Rural Broadband Expansion Project and their plans to bring fiber optic cable internet and communications connectivity to the Asotin County Landfill and the Clarkston Heights. She is requesting the use of the 3-inch High-Density Polyethylene class 160 pressure sewer line, originally installed from the Turning Pointe Business Park on Evans Road to 6th Avenue near the County Landfill. The PUD accepted this line through the Bill of Sale process in July 2011. In February 2014, engineering plans were developed and this line was determined to be undersized and unable to handle the sewer flows from the Park. Plans for a 4-inch pressurized sewer main capable of handling the flow was designed. At this time, Ms. Keefer approached the Board asking if the PUD would be willing to transfer the line back to the ownership of the Port so they could use the line as a conduit for cable, fiber and/or phone lines.

During the presentation of Ms. Keefer's request, at the meeting on March 11, 2014, Commissioner Nuxoll asked if the line could be used, if the pressure was reduced, to provide a redundant feed eliminating the dead end 12-inch line on Evans Road that serves the Park. At the time, the manager stated that it would be possible but there would be some expense to install a pressure reduction valve and extend the line from its current location in front of the landfill up to the intersection of 6th Avenue and 27th Street.

The manager reported that the nearest water main to the 3-inch line is approximately 1,370 feet East at the intersection of 6th Avenue and 27th Street. In 2014 he stated that if a main line installed to connect the 3-inch line, it needs to be at least a 12-inch line to prepare for future growth. At the time, based on recent project costs, the water main would cost \$32,000 (material only) and a pressure reduction valve would cost between \$5,000 and \$12,000 depending on the size determined. The total cost of the project, material only, would be between \$37,000 and \$44,000. If a 3-inch line were installed from 6th Avenue to the current line, the cost would be between \$10,000 and \$12,000. The manager reported that this line has not been extended to the 3-inch line and those costs now, based on inflation, would be approximately 25% higher. In addition, the line would have to be extended under Evans Road to reach the 12-inch water line in the Park.

The manager reported that between the March 11, 2014 meeting date and the next regular meeting date on March 25, 2014, Ms. Keefer contacted him requesting an immediate decision stating that she had to provide their contractor with a change order for running conduit. Due to the short notice that Ms. Keefer provided, the manager stated that he consulted with then Board President Commissioner Ridge regarding the issue and it was decided to keep the line. The manager stated that it is his opinion that this redundant feed is not necessary and the expending of funds to extend the water main from the intersection of 6th Avenue and 27th Street to the 3-inch HDPE line for this purpose is not beneficial given the fact that there are only two tenants at the Turning Pointe Business Park.

Port of Clarkston Commission Chairman, Mark Brigham, stated that the benefit of the line would not only be to connect the County Landfill and provide a redundant loop feed in the Clarkston Heights but would also allow them the ability to market the Park because of the connectivity with fiber communication. The manager stated that the fiber line has been made available through Northwest Open Access Network (NOANet) the fiber optic communication company started by several Public Utility Districts and Energy Northwest. He stated that the PUD was recently able to connect the PUD office, shops and records center to NOANet fiber made available through the Port of Whitman County and Port of Clarkston.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners to turn the 3-inch sewer line back over to the Port for use in extending fiber optic cable. The manager stated that will contact our legal counsel regarding the proper procedure for transferring the line back to the Port. He stated that he should have an answer this week and transferring of the line back to the Port will be an item for the approval at the next meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. Mr. Brigham expressed his appreciation.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

Operations Activity – the manager reported that the operations crew is flushing the system this week and will begin the final lead service line inspection and replacement. 40 services remain to be replaced. The Department of Health completed their Sanitary Surveys on the PUD, City of Asotin and Port of Wilma water systems. Minor issues were noted and work towards resolution of these items is underway.

2018 Fiscal Year Audit – the manager reported that the State Auditor’s Office will be onsite on Monday, May 13 to begin the 2018 Fiscal Year Audit.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge attended the Washington PUD Association meetings on April 17-19 in Olympia, Washington. She reported that a guest speaker provided an overview of Robert’s Rules of Order for new and current PUD Commissioners. They also heard from the Public Disclosure Commission regarding the completion and submitting of proper elected official forms and were told the law prohibits Commissioners from indirect lobbying of legislators. New WPUDA officers were elected and new committee chairs were selected. She reported that during the meetings PUD Commissioners showed up in force at the legislature to demonstrate PUD priority issues supporting Senate Bill 6012. This bill was introduced in the Senate Ways and Means Committee and moved out of Committee the same day as a direct result of WPUDA efforts. SB6012 provides hydropower equal tax incentive treatment as provided for other renewable resources. Hydropower is a zero-emission resource without which the goals set forth in 100% clean energy legislation that has passed the Senate and House could not be met.

Commissioner Ridge will be attending the Energy Northwest meetings on April 23-26 in Richland, Washington.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.