

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

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 October 22, 2019 Regular Meeting and payment of Payroll Vouchers #1999 – #2001 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers #5317EFT – #5333EFT in the amount of \$42,654.10 and Electronic Accounts Payable Vouchers #19110101, #19110102, #19110501, #19110502, #19111201 and #19112501 and Accounts Payable Vouchers #40051 – #40125 in the amount of \$193,098.08. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

City of Asotin Water System Management and Operations Agreement

The manager reported that on Tuesday, October 29, he received an email from City of Asotin Clerk/Treasurer Tiffany Rogers with City Council questions and requested changes to language in the Water System Management and Operations Agreement. The Agreement and changes were discussed at their Monday, October 28 meeting. The manager reported that most changes were items related to Section 3.02 – Duties of the PUD. The City Council requested changing the wording from “daily” to read “5 days/week”, requested a reservoir inspection before year end, the addition of a 5-year interior diving and inspection, paid by the City, semi-annual main-line flushing and fire hydrant flow-testing.

The manager stated that he addressed each issue identified and replied to the City. After his reply, the manager received a phone call from City employee Bill Frye clarifying a misconception regarding the “daily” monitoring and the fact that the Asotin County Fire District is no longer managing the City’s Fire Department. He stated that it was the Council’s misunderstanding that we were charging overtime for checking the wells on the weekend, which isn’t the case, thus the request for “5 days/week”. The manager stated that we will continue to check the wells on the weekends during the peak months. There was also a misunderstanding as to what constituted a proper reservoir inspection which the manager clarified had to be conducted by a certified potable water diving company. Mr. Frye requested that the City piggyback on our reservoir inspection next year through a certified company. Mr. Frye stated that at the October 28th meeting the City Council did approve the monthly compensation increase. The City Council is meeting tonight to discuss the Agreement and the language changes. The manager stated that after City Council approval, he will present the Agreement for Board consideration and final approval.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items presented under New Business.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Operations Activity – the manager reported that on Wednesday, October 30, the City of Asotin received final approval for work to begin on replacement of 45 services on 2nd Street prior to an asphalt project next year. A pre-construction meeting was held with their staff and engineer the next day and work on service replacement began on Wednesday, November 6. To date, all of the 20 services inspected are newer HDPE pipe and do not require replacement except for minor issues. The City did not have maps of the project and the PUD crew did not know what to expect regarding the condition of the services because the meter sets were buried. This discovery will save the City a significant amount of money by the time the project is complete. The City asked us to continue through the project and inspect each service. Each service will receive a new electronic meter.

Operations Foreman, Bob Wimer entered Well No. 6 on Friday, November 8 and discovered an unusual sound coming from the motor. Our electrician investigated and it was determined to schedule a visit from Specialty Pump. Specialty visited the site on Monday, November 11 and when start up was initiated the motor made a loud sound. It was discovered that a plate that provides electrical current had come loose and that the windings are likely failing. The motor will be pulled next week and sent in for repairs. The standby motor will be installed in order to use the well due to Well No. 7 being out of commission. The new Well No. 7 motor will arrive mid-December. The manager reported that Travis Hagen will begin work as an operations crew member on Monday, November 18.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge attended Energy Northwest (EN) Board Meetings and the Member Forum on October 30th through November 1st in Richland, Washington. She reported on operations of the EN's generating facilities: Columbia Generating Station was under budget by 6% for first quarter fiscal 2020. Generation was \$29.16/MWh versus budget of \$31.43/MWh and production was \$24.14/MWh versus budget of \$26.06/MWh. Packwood Hydro operations and maintenance costs were \$113,000 over budget and capital costs are projected to be lower than budget, which will fully offset the increase in costs. Generation was less than budget by 31% due to a planned outage and the cost of power is \$122.70/MWh. Nine Canyon Wind Project operations and maintenance costs were \$153,000 under budget and generation is 12% more than budgeted. The cost of power at Nine Canyon is \$86.35. she reported that EN continues to discuss assumption of Northwest Open Access Network (NOANet) which is owned and operated by EN and several PUDs. She also reported on Forum panel on the Washington State Clean Energy Transformation Act and the importance of nuclear power to clean energy. The panel also addressed the increased energy being used through multiple electronic devices including Alexa.

Commissioner Nuxoll attended the Public Utility Risk Management Services (PURMS) annual Board meeting on November 6-7 in Burien, Washington. He reported that Asotin has reestablished itself as the lowest with regards to health care cost per employee after last year's significant increase due to the number of surgeries. He reported that an attorney and staff member from NOANet attended the Administrative and Executive Committees demanding that PURMS pay \$82,000 for an undersized breaker that failed and took down 68 AT&T cell towers for several hours. NOANet gave AT&T a credit in that amount and they want to file a claim to recover these costs. The PURMS Administrator and attorney stated that equipment failure of this nature is not covered under the property insurance. He reported that insurance carrier, Marsh, Inc., reported that injury accident claim payouts have increased from \$1 to \$2 million to \$10 to \$15 million. He reported that PURMS is the oldest insurance pool in Washington State having been established in December 1976.

Commissioner Ridge will be attending the Public Power Council Annual meeting on November 13-14 in Portland, Oregon.

Commissioner McCall will be joining the Washington PUD Association meetings by phone on Wednesday November 13-14.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.