

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2021

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President Greg McCall presiding, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held by teleconference in accordance with the Washington State Governor's Proclamation 20-28, dated March 24, 2020, due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Proclamation 20-28.15, dated January 19, 2021, extending the original and subsequent Proclamations.
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ROLL CALL: PRESENT Commissioners: Greg McCall, Don Nuxoll and Judy Ridge.

Staff: Tim Simpson and Bob Sischo.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting and payment of Electronic Payroll Vouchers #5812EFT – #5828EFT in the amount of \$37,775.84 and Electronic Accounts Payable Vouchers #21012002, #21012003 and #21012101 and Accounts Payable Vouchers #41428 – #41449 in the amount of \$23,254.97. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The manager reported that on Tuesday, January 12 the Washington State Senate passed a Concurrent Resolution extending certain gubernatorial orders issued in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency. The State House followed with approval on Friday, January 15. The Concurrent Resolution provides that orders issued by the governor in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency are extended until the termination of the state of emergency or until rescinded by gubernatorial or legislative action, whichever occurs first. On January 19th the Rate Payer Assistance and Open Public Meetings Act Proclamations were extended by the governor per the Legislature's Concurrent Resolution.

The manager reported that the total dollar amount of accounts currently past due is approximately \$71,000; \$2,000 higher than the last report. Delinquent account fees are down \$7,800 from January 2020. 114 door tags for cycles 1-3 were generated on January 7 and 73 payments were received. 180 door tags for cycles 4-6 will be generated today. The 2020 Budget ended down \$147,000. The net loss can be attributed to a reduction in revenue in delinquent fees due to state COVID-19 mandates and water sales due to significant rain in May and June. The 2021 Capital Improvement Fund (CIP) will be reduced from \$830,000 to \$680,000 to absorb the loss. 2021 CIP projects will be adjusted accordingly.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items presented under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

City of Clarkston Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement – Sewer Evaluation Report

The manager presented an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the City of Clarkston for the PUD's preparation of the City's 2021 Annual Sewer Evaluation Report. He stated that the sewer evaluation report is used by the City to calculate monthly sewer charges for their customers. The manager stated that the text of the agreement remains the same as well as the fees for providing services.

MOTION by Commissioner Don Nuxoll and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the City of Clarkston for preparation of their annual Sewer Evaluation Report and authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Asotin County Broadband Action Team Billing Insert Request

The manager presented an internet broadband speed test document from the Asotin County Broadband Action Team asking Asotin County residents to test the speed of their internet service. Jennifer Ashby, Director of the Asotin County Library, has requested insertion of this flyer with our monthly billing statements. He stated that Ms. Ashby recently formed an Asotin County Broadband Action Team to assess internet deficiencies and develop a plan for funding from the State of Washington for the build-out of fiber. If approved, the Library, or Broadband Action Team, will pay for the cost of printing and insertion of the flyer with the February billing statements. The survey is not political in nature nor does it request residents to vote for an issue; it simply requests residents to test the speed of their internet. The information provided will assist in directing targeted build-out of fiber for internet service.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to approve the insertion of the broadband speed test document with PUD billing statements. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Operations Activity – the manager reported that the crew has been conducting annual maintenance of well control valves and pressure reduction valves along with flushing and valve exercising.

Developer / Capital Improvement Activity – the manager reported that the developer of property on Marina View Drive completed grading of the road and the operations crew began installation of approximately 600 feet of 6-inch PVC water main which will replace a vintage 2-inch galvanized water line. Installation of the new water main was completed last Friday and the line was chlorinated. The main was flushed yesterday and a water quality sample was taken. Once the sample is determined satisfactory, the crew will begin the tie-over of four (4) existing customer service lines and the 2-inch line will be abandoned in place. The crew will then stub out ten (10) new services for the subdivision.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner McCall and Commissioner Ridge attended virtual Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meetings on January 13-15. Commissioner Ridge reported that at the New Commissioner Orientation Chelan PUDs attorney spoke about the board and general manager roles. He encouraged PUDs to have a governance policy and stated that a common-sense approach to issues and a respect for one another is vital in ensuring good board oversight. He told commissioners to be mindful and careful during an election process; everything is a matter of public record. He stated that commissioners work an average of 20 to 30 hours per week. At the Government Relations and Communications Committee meeting current legislation was discussed. A total of 2,500 bills will be introduced this session. Greg Cullen, the Vice President of Energy Services at Energy Northwest reported that the Department of Energy announced it selected X-energy and TerraPower-GE Hitachi for its Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, which provides initial funding for two domestic advanced nuclear reactor projects. Energy Northwest is a utility partner on both projects which will be located near the Columbia Generating Station (CGS). Final evaluation of these demonstration projects will be in the 2022-2024 timeframe. He also stated that NuScale's Modular Nuclear Reactor was awarded \$1.4 billion in funding.

Commissioner McCall reported that at the Water Committee meeting Executive Director George Caan discussed the transition when Water Program Director John Kounts retires. All water questions and issues need to be funneled through Stefany Zelepuza, Senior Policy Specialist. John Kounts reported that there will not be much legislation regarding water issues this session. There are several current court cases that will affect water right issues. At the Board of Directors meeting, it was stated that due to the COVID-19 restrictions WPUA meetings will continue virtually until further notice. WPUA has sent a letter requesting that PUD workers be deemed essential so that they move up in the process for receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. CARES Act funding has been provided but PUDs will not directly benefit. The Bonneville Power Administration spoke of fish mitigation efforts and stated that snowpack is at 90% of average. Jason Herbert, Energy Northwest Director of Government Affairs and Member Relations reported that CGS had a record energy production year. He stated that there are currently 96 nuclear reactors in production in the United States. Mr. Herbert reported that Energy Northwest was awarded a \$1.15 million grant from the state's Clean Energy Fund to install a network of electric vehicle charging stations along the White Pass Scenic Byway. He updated the Board regarding the development of their solar farm.

Commissioner McCall will be attending a virtual Energy Northwest Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, January 27.

Commissioner Ridge will be attending a virtual Public Power Council meeting on Thursday, February 4.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.