

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2021

.....
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.
.....

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 Don Nuxoll and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting and payment of Payroll Vouchers #2053 – #2055 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers #5829EFT – #5845EFT in the amount of \$41,724.68 and Electronic Accounts Payable Vouchers #21012001, #21020301, #21020501, #21020502, #21021801 and #21022501 and Accounts Payable Vouchers #41450 – #41500 in the amount of \$279,984.53. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The manager reported that the total dollar amount of accounts currently past due is approximately \$69,000; \$2,000 lower than the last report. \$22,000 of the delinquent accounts are over 120 days past due. 180 door tags for cycles 4-6 were generated on January 26 and 67 payments were received. 95 door tags were generated for cycles 1-3 and will be distributed later this week.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items presented under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 21-489 – Thanking WPUDA Water Program Director John Kounts for his Service

The manager presented Resolution 21-489 which thanks John Kounts, Water Program Director for the Washington Public Utility Districts Association, for his 34 years of dedicated service to Public Utility Districts and his regulatory and legislative work that has significantly benefited water utilities throughout Washington State. Mr. Kounts retired on Friday, January 31.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to approve Resolution 21-489 thanking WPUDA Water Program Director John Kounts for his 34 years of service. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Capital Improvement Activity – the manager reported that the operations crew completed the water main replacement project on Marina View Drive. 600 feet of 6-inch PVC water main replaced a vintage 2-inch galvanized water line. The water quality sample taken was satisfactory and the crew tied-over of four (4) existing customer service lines and stubbed out ten (10) new services for the subdivision.

Reservoir Inspection – the manager reported that after reviewing submitted proposals for inspection of PUD and the City of Asotin’s reservoirs, a company was selected to perform the work. Staff was notified yesterday that they will be on site February 10th to begin the inspection process. Sanitized divers will be tethered and lowered into the reservoirs and will complete a video inspection. The process of inspecting the PUD’s eight reservoirs and the City’s two reservoirs should take five days.

Well No. 3 – the manager reported that Specialty Pump will be on site February 16th to install the new pump and column and reinstall the shaft and motor at Well No. 3. Operation of the well will be tested and once a satisfactory sample has been obtained, the well will be put back into operation.

Operations Activity – the manager reported that the crew has been conducting annual maintenance flushing the system and exercising valves. The new Mini-Excavator arrived last week. The control panel for the River’s Bend Reservoir arrived last week and coordination with multiple entities needs to occur before installation. Calibration of the PUD sewer plant flow meter will occur next week.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner McCall attended a virtual Energy Northwest Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, January 27. He reported that officers of the Board were reelected to their positions. The Board discussed the Executive Board per diem approving a resolution setting a pay rate for regular meetings and a lower rate for phone-in meetings. CEO Brad Sawatzke provided an overview of the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) operations stating that CGS had record production in 2020 and went 391 days without an accident. He reported that the CGS refueling outage will occur this year but will be complicated by COVID-19. The CEO reported that a new pro-nuclear board member was appointed to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC is made up of 3-Democrat and 2-Republican members. The Chief Nuclear Officer provided updates on Nine Canyon Wind Project energy production, the operation of the solar/battery farm, electric vehicle charging stations and the environmental services lab that is currently developing a business plan.

Commissioner Ridge attended a virtual Public Power Council (PPC) meeting on Thursday, February 4. She reported that PPC meetings will stay virtual through August. PPC discussions addressed the California Independent System Operators market enhancements planned for the summer of 2021, EIM governance and water temperature for fish on the Columbia River and the Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). PPC provided comments in May of 2020 on the draft NPDES Permit for the TMDL. PPC has filed suit against the US Army Corps regarding illegal actions at the Detroit Dam in the Willamette Valley. Lindsay Slater, Chief of Staff for U.S. Representative Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) spoke regarding his outline for legislation for \$32 billion in funding for salmon recovery which includes the removal of the four Lower Snake River Dams. The outline includes \$10 billion to replace 1,000 megawatts of lost power generation with clean energy resources and \$2 billion for new transmission lines along with other provisions and funding including millions of dollars for mitigation for the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley due if the dams were removed. Asotin PUD is opposed to dam removal.

Commissioner McCall and Commissioner Ridge will be attending virtual Washington PUD Association meetings February 17-19.

OTHER

Commissioner McCall brought up discussion regarding the computer system breach of a Florida water treatment plant and the development of the newsletter scheduled to be delivered to customers in March.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.