

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2021

.....
President Greg McCall 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, Clarkston, Washington.
.....

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 May 25, 2021 Regular Meeting and payment of Payroll Vouchers #2065 – #2067 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers #5965EFT – #5981EFT in the amount of \$42,893.01 and Electronic Accounts Payable Vouchers #21060401, #21060402, #21060701, #21060702, #21061701 and #21062501 and Accounts Payable Vouchers #41828 – #41879 in the amount of \$296,313.16. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Valleyview Drive Property Sale

The manager reported that after a formal inspection of the homes was conducted, and an addendum from the buyer was provided requesting that several items be repaired or replaced. The list included electrical repairs, metal roof repair and handrail and CO detector installation. The addendum also included replacement of the roof on the older home which was estimated at \$4,100. After consulting with the realtor, the manager countered the addendum with a reduced list of repairs focusing on the electrical items and \$2,500 towards the roof. The final approved addendum for the sale of the home was electrical repairs, handrails in each home and \$4,100 for replacing the roof. All listed items have been completed.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items presented under New Business.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Operations Activity – the manager reported that work to identify the issue with the generator and new motor starter operating Well 7 continues. He stated that the problem points to the generator and it not properly regulating the voltage. The generator is overexciting when the motor reaches full speed and the amperage drops. The generator thinks more power is needed and ramps up creating an over voltage issue causing the motor starter to shut down. An electrical engineer, engaged by the PUD, is working with the generator manufacturer to see if the regulator or another component within the generator is causing the issue. Water production is up 145 million gallons over last year through June 7. Rainfall through May was 2.85 inches as compared to 7.91 inches in 2020.

Administrative Activity – the manager reported that the 2020 state audit is scheduled to start the first week of July. An audit prep meeting with audit staff will occur on Thursday, August 17. Finance Director Bob Sischo will be meeting with Chris Kemp, Asotin County Chief Operating Officer, and County Commissioners next week, on Thursday, June 17, to discuss the PUD funding request for customer arrearages. He addressed, with the Board, the items that will be discussed at the meeting.

Capital Improvement Projects – the manager reported that the operations crew completed installation of the new water main on Webster Street between Chestnut and Libby Streets on Friday, June 4, installing 1,285 of 6-inch PVC pipe to replace a 6-inch steel main. The water quality sample taken on the new main was satisfactory and customer services lines are currently being tied over to the new main.

Delinquent Accounts and Collections Update – the manager reported that the total dollar amount of accounts currently past due is \$87,000. Accounts that are over 120 days past due amount to \$35,000. 169 door tags for cycles 4-6 were generated May 24th and 58 payments were received. 94 door tags for billing cycles 1-3 were generated yesterday and will be distributed this week. Forty (40) letters were sent to customers on our delinquent list notifying them of the funds available through the Community Action Partnership (CAP). Only 1 customer responded to date and they received help from CAP. Staff contacted CAP about an insert for our billing statements, regarding available funds, and they requested no insert due to concerns that they would receive unwarranted phone calls from individuals who do not qualify. They stated it is better for the utility to screen those customers that would qualify. The moratorium for collection of delinquent accounts and charging of fees is scheduled to end July 31, 2021.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge joined a virtual Public Power Council (PPC) meeting on Thursday, June 3. She reported on the Blue-Sky Initiative and survey of member utility executive staff regarding the interest within public power to further explore big ideas and other future-focused key initiatives for PPC. Discussion occurred regarding “gas-bubble” trauma that fish are experiencing from spring spill at the dams. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Chief Operating Office, Joel Cook, discussed the transition back to normal operations with staff returning to the office soon. He stated that he wants BPA to be the provider of choice in the Northwest and would like to see the dependence on debt reduced. PPC stated that BPA needs to be transparent in the market and that members should not bear the burden of the costs from the expansion of fish monitoring. The drought and fire concerns were discussed.

Commissioner Nuxoll joined a virtual Public Utility Risk Management System meeting on June 2-3. He reported that fires are causing significant increases in cost. More funding may need to be set aside to cover those costs. A climatologist provided a map showing fire potential and risk throughout the state. He stated that entrance into cyber insurance has proven very beneficial. Member utilities are audited to ensure they have the proper cyber security protections. Health care costs for our PUD is the lowest amongst the members. Switching to the Aetna network has resulted in an 18% decrease in costs. The state mandated Long-Term Care Act was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.