

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2021

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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.
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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 July 27, 2021 Regular Meeting and payment of Payroll Vouchers #2071 – #2073 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers #6033EFT – #6049EFT in the amount of \$43,850.82 and Electronic Accounts Payable Vouchers #21080501, #21080502, #21081701 and #21082501 and Accounts Payable Vouchers #42018 – #42070 in the amount of \$315,664.77. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items presented under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items presented under New Business.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Operations Activity – A video inspection of the Clarkston Heights Reservoirs drain line was conducted Thursday, July 29. The inspection revealed several feet of voids in the bottom section of the steel drain line underneath a customer's retaining wall. The line repair company, who conducted the inspection, will be providing an estimate to repair the void and seal the drain line.

Development Activity – Work on the 29-Lot Legacy Estates Development on 4th Avenue began yesterday with the installation of a new sewer main beginning at the manhole located 1821 4th Avenue. A total of 1,600 feet of sewer main will be installed with 575 feet in 4th Avenue and the remainder in the subdivision. Staff met with a developer regarding a proposed 5-Lot development south of Grandview Drive.

Capital Improvement Projects – Paving on Van Arsdol Street between Chestnut and Libby Streets and Birch Street from Van Arsdol to 15th Streets was completed last week.

Administrative Activity – The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has concluded the BP-22 Rate Case. Transmission costs will increase 11.6% or an estimated \$1,525 per year. The weighted average increase for all BPA customers was 6.1%. Power costs will decrease 2.83% or an estimated \$5,960 per year. The net reduction is \$4,435.00. Rates are effective October 1, 2021.

Financial Report – Revenue through July was \$3.5 million and expenses were at \$3.2 million. Billing through July is \$490,000 higher than 2020. July was the highest billing month ever at over \$600,000.

Delinquent Accounts and Collections Update – The total dollar amount of accounts currently past due is \$98,000. Accounts that are over 120 days past due are at \$37,000. 206 door tags for billing cycles 4-6 were generated July 26th and 77 payments were received. 93 door tags for cycles 1-3 were generated yesterday and will be distributed this week. \$5,800.00 has been received from the Community Action Partnership for the 18 customers who contacted them.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner McCall attended an Energy Northwest (EN) Board meeting virtually on Wednesday, July 28. He reported that, for the first time in history, EN received an exemplary rating on the Columbia Generating Station (CGS). The Chief Nuclear Officer reported that the refueling outage went well and they were able to meet BPA’s request to be online before the hot weather arrived. He reported that CGS produced record energy in June due to the hot weather. A grand opening of the Sid Morrison Energy Center was held. Staff discussed the concluded BPA Rate Case, new solar energy projects, electric vehicle charging station projects, the Horns Rapid Battery Storage Project and other energy projects. Staff also discussed the X-Energy commercial advanced nuclear reactor project. Partners in the project are currently going through a fact-finding process. Grant PUD will need to make a decision in 2024 regarding continuation with the project. The Executive Board named Robert Schuetz as the new CEO, effective August 7. Schuetz has been the site vice president since August 2018.

Commissioner Ridge attended a virtual Public Power Council (PPC) meeting on Thursday, August 5. She reported that PPC’s lobbyist provided a Washington D.C. update. BPA has received \$10 billion in borrowing authority. At PPC’s request \$4 billion will be put into reserves. The concluded BPA Rate Case was discussed. PPC members have requested more input into the BPA Post 2028 Rates and Contracts. The BPA Administrator spoke and thanked PPC members for their input on the Rate Case. A technical analysis of the Columbia River Treaty demonstrated that the United States overpaid Canada \$113 to \$116 million annually. Discussion was held regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) decision to allow California Independent System Operator (CAISO) actions that discriminate against wheel through transmission that affects the Northwest energy market. Questions will be posed to FERC regarding their actions. The Blue-Sky Initiative was discussed and staff are working on issues and ideas presented by member utilities. PPC discussed the State of Oregon’s lawsuit requesting 24/7 spring spill at the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.