

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2022

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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 Craig Riehle.

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 11, 2022 Regular Meeting and payment of Electronic Payroll Vouchers #6236EFT – #6252EFT in the amount of \$42,809.51 and Electronic Accounts Payable Vouchers #22010701, #22010702, #22012001 and #22012502 and Accounts Payable Vouchers #42487 – #42529 in the amount of \$209,985.64. 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

Delinquent Accounts and Collections Update – The Community Action Partnership (CAP) has not released funds from the state appropriated Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Three additional customers have applied for CAP funding.

Development Activity – The County briefly changed their minds on the Justice Center water main extension the day after meeting and coming to an agreement. The County was proposing to own the entire main line. After pointing out the cost to meter the entire water line and installing a backflow prevention device, in addition to the fact that there would no redundant feed to the Center, they returned to the original agreed upon plan. The County has received a Developer Extension Agreement, for their review, in the form of an interlocal governmental agreement. Staff met with the engineer of the Bennett Hill subdivision to review the final plan for the water and sewer extension. A Developer Extension Agreement has been given to the developer of the project for review. Staff has received and is currently reviewing water and sewer main extension plans for Phase 2 of the Appleside Townhomes Subdivision.

2022 Capital Improvement Projects – A mandatory pre-bid meeting for the Libby Street Main Replacement is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1. Bids are due Tuesday February 15 and will be presented to the Board at the regular meeting on February 22.

Backflow Prevention Program Update – Clarkston Heights Reservoirs Drain Line Repair – Director of Operations, Craig Riehle, provided an update of the Backflow Prevention Program, discussing program tasks completed to date, remaining tasks and future plans for program management and compliance. In addition, he showed a video of the repair and relining of the Clarkston Heights Reservoirs drain line.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner McCall and Ridge attended Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meetings virtually January 12-14. Commissioner Ridge reported on the Energy Committee meeting. She stated that there are many bills under review by the WPUDA, in this 60-day legislative session, that affect both energy and water utilities. Most notable is the effort regarding the Clean Energy Transformation Act which is at the center of proposed legislation which affects commercial buildings and building codes. Legislation regarding funding for customer arrearages was discussed. Legislators are proposing \$100 million which will be divided between electric and water utilities at \$75 million for electric and \$25 million for water. She reported on legislation that is being closely watched by WPUDA which requires utility fire risk mitigation plans and would place the liability for fires directly on electric utilities.

Commissioner McCall reported that much of what was discussed at the Energy Committee meeting was discussed at the Board meeting. He reported that discussion at the Commissioner Education and Roundtable meeting focused on WPUDA resources for the legislative session, funding for water and fiber optics projects and how to recruit and hire a manager. He reported that discussion at the Water Committee meeting focused on PUD receivership of failed water systems and providing funding for the assumption and rehabilitation of these systems. Legislation has been proposed for receivership funding. Utility bill arrearage assistance legislation was discussed along with funding for culvert replacement. The state is proposing that utilities pay for one third of the cost of culvert replacement with the state paying for two-thirds. Funding for projects was discussed along with drought response and funding.

Commissioner McCall will be virtually attending an Energy Northwest Board of Directors meeting Wednesday, January 26.

Commissioner Ridge will be attending a virtual Public Power Council (PPC) meeting on Thursday, February 3.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.