

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 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 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 25, 2022 Regular Meeting and payment of Payroll Vouchers #2092 – #2094 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers #6253EFT – #6269EFT in the amount of \$45,168.02 and Electronic Accounts Payable Vouchers #22020101, #22020401, #22020402, #22020403, 22020701, #22020702, #22022201, #22022501 and #22022502 and Accounts Payable Vouchers #42530 – #42571 in the amount of \$330,317.11. 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) released funds from the state appropriated Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Delinquent account balances over 61 days have decreased \$12,000, since January, to \$34,000. One customer represents \$21,000 or 63% of the total delinquent account balances.

Development Activity – Asotin County reviewed and sent an update of the Justice Center Developer Extension Intergovernmental Agreement. Changes requested by the County were minor and the final draft is pending. A draft of the utility easement for the water line was reviewed by staff and found acceptable. A final draft of the easement is pending County approval. A Developer Extension Agreement for the Bennett Hill subdivision has been delivered to the developer but there has been no response to date. Comments were submitted by staff regarding the water and sewer main extension plans for Phase 2 of the Appleside Townhomes Subdivision. The engineer and developer have not responded to the comments which were provided two weeks ago. The Port of Clarkston has surveyed their property holdings and have created a preliminary subdivision plat. The new plat has no effect on PUD services.

2022 Capital Improvement Projects – Three (3) contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting for the Libby Street Main Replacement on Tuesday, February 1; M.L. Albright and Sons. Crea Construction and Knife River. Bids are due Tuesday February 15. CIP project material has been arriving.

Operations Activity – Two (2) operations staff have completed Commercial Driver’s License training and will test soon to earn their license. Annual water and sewer system maintenance continues.

Administrative Activity – Staff discovered last week that our Franchise Agreement with Asotin County, allowing work in their right-of-way, expired last year. The County is aware of the oversight and is working on updating the 25-year agreement.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner McCall virtually attended an Energy Northwest (EN) Board of Directors meeting Wednesday, January 26. He reported that an election for the Executive Board will take place in April. To date, no candidates have been identified. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provided an overview of operations and stated that COVID had not affected operations at the Columbia Generating Station (CGS). The CEO reported about the multiple unions at EN and the process of bargaining with each. A recent survey of employees indicates a positive working environment. He reported on the difficulty of recruiting and hiring staff due to a housing shortage in the Tri-Cities. The CEO reported of an attempted cyber attack that was thwarted by staff. The Chief Nuclear Officer reported on the successful passage of the recent inspections and reviews of CGS. Energy Services reported on solar power projects and electric vehicle charging stations. EN is working with Grant County PUD on the siting of a new nuclear power plant. Native American tribes have expressed interest in nuclear power and the inventor of Sonicare wants EN to work with several clean energy groups on the promotion of nuclear power.

Commissioner Ridge attended a virtual Public Power Council (PPC) meeting on Thursday, February 3. She reported that discussion regarding having commissioners on the Executive Board surfaced again as Liz Greene completed her one year on the Executive Board after PPC members voted against having commissioners on this board. PPC staff reported on the Blue-Sky Initiative allowing members to challenge current and past practices and provide ideas and rethinking strategy for dealing with the Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) authority and operations. This includes ideas on how to integrate public power into the post-2028 rate process. The majority of PPC members believe that BPA is not doing enough to lower costs. BPA discussed the \$250 million in budgeted for fish and wildlife programs and that the US Army Corp is in the driver’s seat when it comes to fish and wildlife issues.

Commissioner McCall and Ridge will virtually attend the Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meetings February 16-18.

ADJOURNMENT

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