

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
November 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 October 25, 2022 Regular Meeting and Payroll Vouchers 2119 – 2121 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers 6553EFT – 6569EFT in the amount of \$45,061.36 and Electronic Accounts Payable Vouchers 22110401, 22110402, 22110403 and 22111401 and Accounts Payable Vouchers 43280 – 43337 in the amount of \$212,176.11. 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

Resolution 22-502 – Rescinding Emergency Resolution 20-476

The manager presented Resolution 22-502 which provides for rescinding of Resolution 20-476 which declared an emergency and delegated authority due to COVID-19. On February 29, 2020 Proclamation 20-05 was issued which declared an emergency due to COVID-19. At the Board of Commissioners meeting held on March 23, 2020, the Board responded to the proclamation with adoption of Resolution 20-476 which declared an emergency and delegated authority to the General Manager to exercise emergency powers as prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, ordinances and policies. This Resolution was to continue in full force and effect until terminated by law or by further Resolution. On October 28, 2022, the COVID-19 emergency was terminated with the issuance of Proclamation 20-05.1 effective at 11:59 PM on Monday, October 31, 2022, rescinding Proclamation 20-05 and all COVID-19 emergency proclamations issued pursuant to Proclamation 20-05.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to approve Resolution 22-502 rescinding emergency Resolution 20-476. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Development Activity – Dry utilities have been installed at the Bennett Hill Subdivision and paving should occur soon. Work on installation of the water main, up to Allen Drive could begin soon but may be delayed due the colder, wetter weather. The pressure reduction valve (PRV) vault was delivered to the site on Thursday, October 27.

Operations Activity – The operations crew continues to work on installation of MXU compatible meter lids and the 300 MXUs received on the Automated Meter Reading System Project. The GPS survey of the City of Asotin’s sewer system has been completed.

Administrative Activity – Staff and the manager met with legal counsel to discuss the process of forming a Local Utility District (LUD). The manager briefed the Board regarding the discussion with counsel and provided an LUD process outline. A Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services was advertised with an October 31, 2022 deadline for submittal of Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). Five firms submitted their SOQs and, after evaluation of each firm, Consor Engineering (formerly Murraysmith) was selected to perform engineering services. A master contract for engineering services will be provided. The Draft 2023 Budget will be available for review at the next Board meeting.

Capital Improvement Activity – The Rivers Bend Booster Pump Station (BPS) design is 100% complete. A request for bids for a packaged BPS vault was requested from qualified vendors on our Vendor Roster. Bids are due by Monday, November 21. In preparation for the BPS installation project next year the operations crew installed a valve today on the watermain that supplies the Rivers Bend Reservoir and the SCADA unit for the BPS was ordered last week due to a 12-week lead time. The concrete pad for the generator and automatic transfer switch, for the Well No. 1 Emergency Backup Generator project, was completed along with extending the raceway where water flows from the well during startup and shut down. The generator ship date was bumped from December 1, 2022 to June 24, 2023. Western States Equipment looked into the matter and the generator is now scheduled to ship January 31, 2023 and should be here in February. Installation of the pressurized sewer line connecting the house located at 2554 18th Street to the PUD sewer main on 18th Street was completed yesterday.

Financial Report – Revenue through the end of October was at \$6.37 million with expenses at \$6.45 million, a deficit of approximately \$80,000. Water sales revenue through October should be at 88% of the budget and is at 83% or \$210,000 below projections. Other revenue and installation fees have helped reduce the budgeted revenue deficit. Expenses are above projections from the unplanned purchase of stock material due to supply chain issues and increased health insurance and fuel costs. The projected yearend budget deficit will be reduced by withholding reserve fund set asides.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner McCall attended the Energy Northwest (EN) Board of Director Meeting and the Public Power Forum October 26-27 in Richland, Washington. He reported that Douglas County PUD has rejoined Energy Northwest. The Bonneville Power Administration and Energy Northwest reported they had good years financially. They are both encouraging long-term energy contracts to ensure rate stability. The EN CEO stated that the Columbia Generating Station is running well and site security exercises have been conducted. EN is expanding their nuclear portfolio with modular small scale nuclear reactors and have entered into a partnership with Westinghouse for the development of micro nuclear reactors that produce 5 megawatts of energy. EN is working to make the Tri-cities a center for nuclear innovation. Other power generation projects are doing well and EV charging stations are being installed with 10 installations in progress and another 30 planned for the future. At the Power Forum the keynote speaker spoke on the difference between nuclear power in the United States and European nations. He stated that France has one design or type of nuclear reactor, whereas, the U.S. has many different types. France also utilizes 95% of their nuclear fuel, whereas, the U.S. only uses 6% of the fuel. A company named Curio is working in the Tri-cities to develop a way to reuse spent nuclear fuel.

Commissioner McCall reported that he and the general manager were asked by the City of Clarkston Mayor Monika Lawrence to meet with her and the City Clerk Steve Austin to discuss reinitiating the process of PUD contract operation of the wastewater treatment plant and sewer collection system. Commissioner McCall reported that the meeting went well with the mayor stating she would discuss the idea with City Council members. The August 2019 sewer system agreement was provided to the Board.

Commissioner Nuxoll attended the Public Utility Risk Management System (PURMS) Annual Board of Directors meeting November 2-3 in Burien, Washington. He reported that a resolution was passed by the PURMS Board to ensure that the excess fire insurance premium surcharge would only be applied to members that have power lines in rural lands. There will be no surcharge cost to Asotin PUD and other non-electrical member utilities. He stated that cyber security insurance costs continue to be an issue with high premiums and limited coverage. There will be a minimum 15% increase in 2023 for property and liability insurance. The administrator has committed to a 3% increase in pool administrative costs for the next two years.

Commissioner McCall will be virtually attending Washington PUD Association meetings and the Board of Directors meeting November 16-18.

Commissioner Ridge will be attending the Public Power Council Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Washington November 16-17.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.