

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
August 7, 2023

.....
President Don Nuxoll 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: Don Nuxoll and Judy Ridge. Greg McCall by phone.
Staff: Bob Sischo.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

MOTION by Commissioner Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the July 25, 2023, Regular Meeting and Payroll Vouchers 2149 – 2151 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers 6949EFT – 6974EFT in the amount of \$69,378.65 and Electronic Accounts Payable Voucher 23080401, 23080402, 23080403, 23080404, 23081401 and 23082501 and Accounts Payable Vouchers 44218 – 44273 in the amount of \$308,526.83. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Collision Restitution

Finance and Administration Director Bob Sischo stated that on the early morning of May 15, 2022, the main office building and a PUD vehicle was damaged in a high-speed crash by Nathan Fromm. Mr. Fromm was charged on several accounts and pleaded not guilty. The case has been in the courts for the many months since and a new attorney was recently assigned to his case. The attorney contacted the General Manager on Friday, August 3 stating that Mr. Fromm will be changing his plea from not guilty to guilty and requested that the restitution being sought by the PUD for the damages be reduced or eliminated. Director Sischo reported that he had contacted Dick Rodruck, the Administrator of the Public Utility Risk Management Systems (PURMS), to discuss the request. Mr. Rodruck indicated that PURMS would be satisfied with the elimination of the restitution request if the Board of Commissioners decided to withdraw it. Commissioner Nuxoll indicated that he would consider the request, but first wanted to know about the nature of the guilty plea. Commissioner McCall stated that he would consider withdrawing the request for restitution but believes that it would be appropriate to hear from Mr. Fromm directly. Director Sischo was directed by the Board to contact Mr. Fromm's attorney to clarify his plea and to request Mr. Fromm's attendance at the August 22, 2023, Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items presented under New Business.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Capital Improvement Activity – The operations crew completed the tie over of customer service lines to the new water main on 11th Street from Libby Street to Highland Avenue. Paving will be completed soon. The River's Bend Reservoir Booster Pump Station startup is scheduled for tomorrow. The Well 1 transformer and wiring, for the emergency backup generator, is completed and startup and testing of the generator will occur this week.

Development Activity – The manager and staff continue to work with Asotin County and the contractor for payment of water and sewer connection fees associated with the Justice Center prior to construction.

Administrative Activity – The State Auditor’s office will begin the 2022 Fiscal Year Audit on Tuesday, September 5.

City Sewer System Activity – Director Sischo reported that the fiber connection at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is active. Hydro flushing of the city sewer system is complete. Management and operations staff met today to determine a schedule for executing the sewer collection system point repair plan. The sewer main replacement project design is 60% complete and a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 16 to review the documents and walk the project areas.

City Sewer System Ownership Transfer – Commissioner McCall, the manager and Director Sischo met with legal counsel Joe Brogan and bond counsel Stacie Amasaki on Friday, July 28 to review the draft Ownership Transfer Agreement. Several more items need to be researched before providing the City of Clarkston with a draft copy of the Agreement. One item is the timing of spending American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Director Sischo, Stacie and the City Clerk will meet soon to discuss the details.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner McCall virtually attended the Energy Northwest (EN) Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 26. He reported on a new concept that would use solar panels to shade fish passages at dams. The use of the panels would provide needed shade for water cooling to ensure healthy fish passage, while also replacing some of the energy diverted from dam turbines for fish passage. Additional information about the project scope will be shared at the EN meeting in September.

Commissioner Ridge attended Public Power Council (PPC) meetings in Portland, Oregon August 3-4. She reported that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) attended the meeting and updated PPC on their strategic goals: Investing in people, enhance the value of products and services, sustain financial strength, mature asset management, preserve safe reliable system operations, and modernize business and systems processes. Commissioner Ridge stated that BPA will be focusing on their future transmission strategy. Additional topics covered at the PPC meeting were fish and wildlife project costs and their affect on rates, as well as western power markets and the impact of “day ahead” energy sales.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.