

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2024

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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.
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ROLL CALL: PRESENT Commissioners: Don Nuxoll, Judy Ridge and Greg McCall.
Staff: Tim Simpson and Bob Sischo.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting and Electronic Payroll Vouchers 7228EFT – 7252EFT in the amount of \$71,646.21 and Electronic Accounts Payable Voucher 24010909 and 24011903–24011908 and Accounts Payable Vouchers 44833 – 44868 in the amount of \$186,528.44. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items presented under Old Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Nuxoll adjourned the regular meeting into Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. to evaluate the performance of the General Manager per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). Commissioner Nuxoll stated that the Board would be in Executive Session for 20 minutes. Commissioner Nuxoll called the regular meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated that no decisions were made.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 24-526 – Setting the General Manager’s Salary

MOTION by Commissioner Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to adopt Resolution 24-526 setting the General Manager’s salary effective January 1, 2024. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Award Bid for 2024 Utility Crew Truck and Service Body

The manager stated that the 2024 Budget provides for the purchase of a utility crew truck. The new vehicle will consist of a cab and chassis and a utility service body with a 5,000-pound crane. A bid was received from National Auto Fleet Group utilizing Sourcewell, a national firm that competitively bids vehicles and equipment and provides them for purchase by governmental and public entities through dealerships who have a contract with them. The bid amount for a Ford F-550 Diesel Super Duty 4WD cab and chassis with an IMT Dominator Service Crane Body, with sales tax is \$276,865.64. The new truck will replace the 2015 Utility Crew Truck which will be transferred to the City Sewer System staff for use at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and on collection system repairs. A value for the 2015 truck will be determined at a later date. If ordered now, the new truck would arrive in September.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to award the bid for the 2024 Utility Crew Truck and Service Body to National Auto Fleet Group in the amount of \$276,864.64. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Capital Improvement Activity – The Well No. 1 column, shaft and pump have arrived but Specialty Pump Service is waiting for the arrival of a component that links the shaft to the motor. Work to replace the components will begin mid-February.

Development Activity – The Developer Agreement for the 16-lot Folsom Development off of Chukar Lane was signed today. Work on the development will begin in March.

City Sewer System Activity – Staff and the manager met with Clearwater Composting and City of Clarkston on Thursday, January 18 to discuss their contract and the hauling of biosolids. The City is acceptable with the biosolids portion of the contract being moved to the PUD. Staff will be meeting with Clearwater at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Friday, January 26 to discuss using a roll-off cart for them to pick up and haul. Utilization of this service could save money by deferring the purchase of a dump truck. Avista Utilities stated today that everything is on track for the PUD to provide power to the WWTP beginning February 1, 2024. WWTP Superintendent, Wes Ison, has notified the manager that he will be retiring this year. The position will be posted internally in February.

City Sewer System Main Replacement Project – Bids were received and opened on Tuesday, January 16, for the 2023 City of Clarkston Sewer System Main Replacement Project funded by the City's designated \$1.5 million in funding received through the American Relief Plan Act. Two contractors submitted bids for the projects which included three schedules: Schedule A - McCarroll Street from Highland Avenue to Chestnut Street, Schedule B - University Street from Chestnut to Libby Streets and Schedule C – The Alley between 5th and 6th Streets from Chestnut to Elm Streets. Contractors were allowed to bid either pipe bursting or open trench for Schedules A and B and Cured-In-Pipe-Placement for Schedule C. Debco Construction was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$1,365,001.43. Director of Operations, Craig Riehle, and the manager attended the City of Clarkston Public Works Committee meeting that afternoon to deliver the bid results. At the conclusion of the meeting the Committee stated that they would recommend award of the project to the lowest responsible bidder and approval of the Contractor Agreement. At their meeting on Monday, January 22, the Clarkston City Council awarded the bid to Debco Construction and approved the Contractor Agreement authorizing the Mayor to execute the Agreement.

City Sewer System Transfer – The manager, Commissioner Greg McCall, Director Sischo and Director Riehle met today with Scott Bauer, Northwest Municipal Advisors to discuss the process of financing the retirement of the City Revenue Bonds as a part of the City Sewer System ownership transfer process. There are two financing options that will be explored; a revenue bond or bank loan which is private bond financing. Mr. Bauer will begin the process by speaking with several identified banks next week. If he receives good feedback, then he will develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) and deliver to the banks. If the feedback is less than favorable or the RFP shows that the interest rate and term of financing is undesirable then the process of public bond financing will begin.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge virtually attended a Public Power Council meeting on Thursday, January 11. She reported that the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) Settlement dominated the discussion. The federal government, six tribes and the states of Oregon and Washington entered into a secret deal regarding CRSO and breaching of the four Lower Snake River Dams without participation of the utilities and ratepayers that utilize the federal power system. PPC is considering litigation.

Commissioner Ridge and Commissioner McCall virtually attended the Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meetings January 10 to January 12. Commissioner Ridge reported that the CRSO settlement was also the topic of focus at the Energy Committee meeting. The group also discussed the Washington D.C. visit in February along the American Public Power Association rally that will occur during that visit. She reported that WPUDA's "Day on the Hill," to meet and talk to state legislators, is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14.

Commissioner McCall reported that at the Commissioners Education Roundtable, rate setting was the topic of discussion. At the Water Committee meeting, lobbyists discussed legislation to address water right issues, funding of culvert replacements for fish passage, receivership of failed water systems by PUDs and counties and water use efficiency. It was reported that, once again, legislators are looking to raid the Public Works Trust Fund, this time to divert funds for expansion of broadband service. During a roundtable discussion, the group addressed the subject of hydrant maintenance and repair. At the Board Meeting, Energy Northwest and the Bonneville Power Administration both reported on the bad water year in 2023 and the potential of another in 2024. Along with the discussion of the CRSO settlement, the group discussed pending legislation, the success of the legislative reception despite the bad weather and the benefit of the Municipal Research and Services Center that PUDs have access to.

Commissioner McCall virtually attended the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) Board Meeting on Monday, January 22. He reported the Executive Director is retiring and they will be advertising for her replacement soon. They discussed the update of WASWD's articles of incorporation and discussed current legislation affecting water and sewer utilities and the initiatives that will be on the November ballot.

Commissioner McCall will virtually attend Energy Northwest Board of Directors meetings Wednesday, January 24.

Commissioner Ridge will virtually attend a Public Power Council meeting on Thursday, February 8.

ADJOURNMENT

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