

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
November 25, 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 Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the November 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and Electronic Payroll Vouchers 7751EFT–7778EFT in the amount of \$73,381.36 and Electronic Accounts Payable Voucher 24112001, 24112002, 241120003, 24112004 and 24112501 and Accounts Payable Vouchers 46029–46090 in the amount of \$236,315.66. 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

Award 2025 Capital Improvement Projects Material Bids

Then manager presented bids, for water main material and valves for our planned 2025 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), requested from four vendors on the Vendor Roster. The material bids previously approved were for brass material for stock and capital improvement projects. The bid results from each vendor for each bid request, with sales tax included, are as follows: Water Main Material – Consolidated Supply Company–\$105,347.98, Ferguson Waterworks–\$105,614.50 and Valves – Consolidated Supply Company–\$26,252.57 and Ferguson Waterworks–\$26,544.00. Bids were tabulated and calculations were checked and Consolidated Supply Company is the lowest responsible bidder for the 2025 Capital Improvement Projects water main and valve material.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to award the bids for 2025 Capital Improvement Projects Water Main Material, in the amount of \$105,347.98 and Valves, in the amount of \$26,252.57, to Consolidate Supply Company. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Resolution 24-540 – Adopting the 2025 Budget

The manager presented Resolution 24-540 which provides for the adoption of the 2025 PUD Budget. At the Board meeting on Tuesday, November 12, an overview of the 2025 Budget was provided. There was detailed discussion regarding items identified in the Budget and outlined in the Budget Narrative. The manager stated that the 2025 Budget consolidates all utility functions into a single budget as provided for by Board Resolution 14-409. The manager discussed several updated budget items.

MOTION by Commissioner Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve Resolution 24-540 adopting the 2025 PUD Budget. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Resolution 24-541 – Setting the 2025 Water Rates, Charges and Fee

The manager presented Resolution 24-541 which sets the Water Service Rates, Charges and Fees effective January 1, 2025. The Water Consumptive Rate will increase to \$1.30 per unit. The Monthly Minimum Charge will increase for all account categories; \$1.00 for 3/4 to 1 1/2-inch meters, \$5.00 for 2 to 8-inch meters. The Multifamily unit charge will increase from \$12.00 to \$13.00 per unit per month. Fixed or Monthly Minimum revenue is now 50% of total water revenue. The 1-inch Installation Fee will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,200 to cover the increase in material, labor and equipment costs. The Fire Hydrant Installation deposit will increase from \$3,000 to \$4,000 to cover the increase in costs. The total fee for fire hydrant installation is based on the final cost of installation.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to approve Resolution 24-541 setting the Water Rates, Charges and Fees effective January 1, 2025. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Resolution 24-542 – Setting the 2025 Sewer Rates, Charges and Fee

The manager presented Resolution 24-542 which sets the Sewer Service Rates, Charges and Fees effective January 1, 2025. The Resolution combines the County and City Sewer System rates into one resolution although the rate structures remain separate. For those customers who reside in the County, the Single Family Residential and Commercial Monthly Charges will increase from \$40.00 to \$43.00; Qualified Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Monthly Charges will increase from \$32.50 to \$35.00 and Port of Wilma Monthly Charges will increase from \$55.00 to \$65.00. For those customers who reside in the City, Residential Monthly Base Charges will increase from \$24.40 to \$26.25; City Commercial Monthly Base Charges will increase from \$47.00 to \$50.25 and the Monthly Sewer Charge for water consumption for both classifications will increase from \$5.20 to \$5.60.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to approve Resolution 24-542 setting the Sewer Rates, Charges and Fees effective January 1, 2025. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Administrative Activity – The manager and Director Sischo met again with Archbright to review the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts Retrospective Rating (Retro) Program. The cost of membership in the Retro program will be 5% of our total Washington State Department of Labor and Industry payments or \$1,500 initially from January to June 2025. Membership will renew June 1 for a full year for \$3,000. The average return for members is approximately 30%. Membership includes valuable safety training programs and onsite safety evaluations. The Board supported the manager’s recommendation to join the Retro program.

Water System Activity – Specialty Pump was authorized to order the pump, column, shaft and rings for Well No. 7. The process was delayed in order to evaluate an alternative pump recommendation.

Sewer System Activity – A 60% sewer main replacement project design meeting will be held tomorrow. The Washington State Department of Ecology staff visited and toured the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Friday, November 22 and presented the staff with their Outstanding Performance Award. The PUD was informed by Ecology staff that the permit review process had expired and the PUD will be required to retest finished water and file a new National Pollution Elimination Discharge Permit with the Environment Protection Agency. Additional information on the process will be provided soon.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge and Commissioner McCall virtually attended Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meetings November 13-15. Commissioner McCall reported that at the Education Roundtable they heard a presentation regarding storage pump systems where water is pumped up to a reservoir and released through a generator producing energy. They also heard from a state legislative staff member on meeting and communicating with legislators. At the Water Committee meeting the group discussed the WPUDA water legislative priorities for the 2025 legislative session such as, acquisition of small failing systems, water use efficiency, adjudication and funding for culvert replacement. The group discussed the recently announced \$10 billion budget deficit. PUDs and WPUDA staff are concerned that the state will once again raid the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) rather than balancing the budget.

Commissioner McCall reported that at the Board of Directors meeting the group also discussed the legislative priorities and staff stated their belief that the 2025 legislative session will be focused mostly on electrical issues and the crafting of legislation that will provide limitations on wildfire claims. The Board heard from the Bonneville Power Administration and Energy Northwest regarding small nuclear reactors, their work with PUDs on cybersecurity assessments, the development of geothermal energy production and the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The Clarkston EV charging station is operational. He reported that the WPUDA 2025 Budget was adopted.

Commissioner Ridge reported that she also attended the Board of Directors meeting and added that WPUDA had previously discussed necessary budgeted office building repairs but reported that water damage was caused to the building from a tenant leaving water running creating addition repairs.

Commissioner McCall virtually attended the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) Section I and Section II meeting on Thursday, November 21. He reported that the group discussed WASWD 2025 legislative priorities, the makeup of current and newly elected legislators, the vulnerability of the PWTF due to the state's projected budget deficit and the recent power outage affecting utilities. WASWD has hired a new Executive Director who will start in January.

ADJOURNMENT

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