

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2026

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President Judy Ridge 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: Judy Ridge, Greg McCall and Don Nuxoll.
Staff: Tim Simpson, Bob Sischo and Lacey Smith.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

MOTION by Commissioner Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the December 22, 2025 Regular Meeting and Payroll Vouchers 2251–2253 and Electronic Payroll Vouchers 8499EFT–8524EFT in the amount of \$83,757.29 and Electronic Accounts Payable Voucher 25123101–25123104, 26010501–26010505, 26010701, 26010702, 26011201, 26012301, 26012302 and 26012601, Electronic Funds Transfer Voucher 209–EFT to 230–EFT and Accounts Payable Vouchers 47657–47700 in the amount of \$422,115.77. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Asotin County Justice Center Monthly Sewer Charges

The manager reported that he received an email from Asotin County’s Chief Operating Officer, Chris Kemp, on Monday, January 12 regarding the sewer bill for the 144-bed Asotin County Justice Center (Center). He stated that the Center became operational in December when inmates were transferred there and the County received their first sewer bill for the facility. Ms. Kemp asked if the bill, in the amount of \$6,624.00, was correct and the manager replied that it was correct and explained the monthly sewer charge calculation which is based on Equivalent Residential Units (ERU). The Board adopted Sewer Rates, Charge and Fees resolution was provided to her.

In a follow up email, Ms. Kemp stated that there were only 57 inmates and requested a reduction in the cost of service and that the charges be calculated based on the occupancy. The manager stated that the Board approved rate structure does not have provisions to base sewer fees on occupancy. He also stated that it would be a challenge to manage because the rate would have to be applied it to other ERU classifications and there would have to be regular reporting and updates on occupancy. The only option would be to change the Centers' ERU calculation making it similar to a motel or a hotel. The manager reported that the Center’s “Jail/Correctional Facility” classification designation was adopted by sewer rate Resolution 20-483 at the meeting on December 8, 2020 with rates effective January 1, 2021. At that time staff recommended an ERU of 1.0 for the first bed and a .4 ERU on the additional beds based upon research of the charges at other correctional facilities in the state. The Board chose an ERU of 1.0 for the Center because of the 24/7 nature of the facility.

Asotin County Commissioner Chuck Whitman was in attendance and stated that the Center is made up of pods and that there are a limited number of shared fixtures. Mr. Whitman stated that it will be some time before the facility is full and that the sewer charges received account for a large part of their utility budget. He stated that he would appreciate the Board’s consideration of lowering the sewer charges for the Center. Commissioner Ridge requested that he provide the General Manager with the number of fixtures in the facility and stated that the information and charges will be reviewed by staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Ridge adjourned the regular meeting into Executive Session at 5:45 p.m. to evaluate the performance of the General Manager per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). Commissioner Ridge stated that the Board would be in Executive Session for 20 minutes. Commissioner Ridge called the regular meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m. She stated that no decisions were made.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 26-563 – Amending the Personnel Policy

The manager presented Resolution 26-563 which provides for the amendment of the Personnel Policy. He stated that amendments and additions are recommended to Chapter 2 – General Provisions, Section 2.1.1.6 – Exempt Employees, Chapter 3 – Hours of Work, Section 3.4 – Callback/Standby, Chapter 4 – Compensation, Section 4.7 – Classification Salary Ranges and Chapter 7 – Leave from Employment, Section 7.3 – Personal Leave and Section 7.5 – Supplemental Leave. The manager and the Board discussed the additions and amendments to the Personnel Policy chapters and sections identified.

MOTION by Commissioner Greg McCall and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to approved Resolution 26-563 amending the Personnel Policy. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Resolution 26-564 – Setting the General Manager’s Salary

MOTION by Commissioner Don Nuxoll and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to adopt Resolution 26-564 setting the General Manager’s salary effective January 1, 2026. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Administrative Activity – The manager stated that WPUA Policy Director, Nicolas Garcia contacted him today confirming that Asotin PUD had only 1 retail electric customer. Whatcom PUD and Asotin only have 1 electric retail customer and are currently exempt from integrated resource planning. An Integrated Resource Plan is used to identify a utility company's long-term energy resource strategy and is part of the Climate Commitment Act. The law states planning must be conducted for electric utilities with 2 or more retail customers. Legislation has been proposed to change law to state 1 or more retail customers. Mr. Garcia is working on amending the legislation so that our PUDs are grandfathered in making the legislation effective beginning in 2026. There will be a ribbon cutting celebration for Energy Northwest's Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Simulator on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 in Richland, Washington beginning at 3:00 pm.

Water System Activity – The manager stated that staff received notification that the Rivers Bend Booster Pump Station Emergency Generator ship date is August 5, 2026 and the automatic transfer switch ship date is March 17, 2026. The Comprehensive Water System Plan has been submitted to the Department of Health for their review. The Department of Ecology has completed their review.

Sewer System Activity – The manager stated that a community meeting for the 6th and 7th Streets Sewer Main Replacement Project was held at the Clarkston City Hall on Tuesday, January 6. Approximately 10 customers attended the meeting and several met with the contractor and staff after the meeting to discuss their properties. DW Excavating will start the project on Monday, January 19 and will complete the installation of the sewer main from Chestnut to Park Street by month end.

Electric System Activity – The manager stated that the Clearwater Power Company will be replacing the electrical cable that serves Quail Ridge Golf Course (QRGC) beginning Monday, January 26. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 20. The owners of QRGC have been invited and they stated that they plan to attend the meeting.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge virtually attended the Public Power Council (PPC) meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2026. She reported that PPC staff presented information of the Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) Residential Exchange Program, Residential Sale and Purchase Agreement, the system cost methodology and the next steps ahead of the Record of Decision. PPC staff and attorneys provided an update on PPC’s work as a defendant intervenor in the federal Columbia River System Operations litigation. PPC staff provided an update on the BPA and PPC Joint Strategic Planning Session held in December and an overview of PPC Strategic Priorities Engagement. Staff stated that BPA and PPC were largely aligned on areas of highest priority. At the session both groups highlighted the benefits of communication and partnership with several topic areas identified for additional discussion in 2026. One outcome of the meeting is a proposed joint BPA/public power communications group which PPC will work to facilitate in 2026. PPC staff updated the group on the ongoing efforts to expand organized markets in the West and initiatives related to those efforts. BPA is proposing changes to its rates to align with recent changes to the California Independent System Operator tariff. Making these changes will prevent over/under collection of revenues by BPA. PPC staff will seek guidance on proposed comments in response to a recent BPA workshop. In a challenge to BPA’s Day-Ahead Market Decision, BPA filed a comprehensive brief defending its policy decision to participate in Markets+. Intervenors supporting BPA, including PPC, will be able to submit supporting briefs by January 23. A nominating committee for Markets+ has been formed to choose Board members for the new Regional Organization.

Commissioner Ridge and Commissioner McCall will be virtually attending the Washington PUD Association meetings January 14-16.

Commissioner McCall will be virtually attending an Energy Northwest Board of Directors meeting and a Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts meeting on Thursday, January 22.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.