

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 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 January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting and Electronic Payroll Vouchers 8525EFT–8550EFT in the amount of \$77,717.29 and Electronic Accounts Payable Voucher 26012001, 26012002 and 26012101, Electronic Funds Transfer Voucher 231–EFT to 255–EFT and Accounts Payable Vouchers 47701–47731 in the amount of \$170,656.92. 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 26-565 – Setting the 2026 Sewer Rates, Charges and Fees

The manager presented Resolution 26-565 which provides for the setting of the Sewer Rates, Charges and Fees effective January 1, 2026. He stated that the Resolution specifically provides for the amendment of the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) applied to the Asotin County Justice Center (Center) under the Classification “Jail/Correctional Facility”. Asotin County received their first billing for the 144-bed Center two weeks ago. The County stated that there are only 57 inmates and requested a reduction in the cost of sewer service and that the charges be calculated based on the occupancy.

Asotin County Commissioner Chuck Whitman stated that it will be some time before the facility is full and he would appreciate the Board’s consideration of lowering the sewer charges for the Center. Mr. Whitman also stated that the Center is made up of pods and there are a limited number of shared fixtures. Commissioner Whitman provided the manager with the number of fixtures as requested. The manager stated that calculating the sewer charges based on the number of fixtures would not be as accurate as calculating based upon the full potential capacity of the facility similar to a hotel or motel.

The Center’s classification designation was adopted by sewer rate Resolution 20-483 at the meeting on December 8, 2020, with rates effective January 1, 2021. The manager stated that at that time, a .4 ERU per bed was recommended. The Board chose an ERU of 1.0 per bed for the Center because of the 24/7 nature of the facility. After additional research on sewer charges for correctional facilities in the state, the majority of the facilities that charge per bed utilize a .4 ERU. The manager stated that he would recommend setting the Jail/Correction Facility ERU at .4 per bed.

MOTION by Commissioner Don Nuxoll and seconded by Commissioner Greg McCall to approved Resolution 26-565 setting the Sewer Rates, Charges and Fees effective January 1, 2026. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Development Activity – Crea Construction has started earth work on the 22-lot Cache Creek Development on 6th Avenue.

Water System Activity – The water crew has been exercising valves in the distribution system. Water and wastewater operations staff are currently working on their crane certification. Preliminary work will begin this week on the 8th Street water main replacement project, from Highland Avenue to Libby Street, which replaces 665 feet of 6-inch steel water main with 6-inch PVC.

Sewer System Activity – The 6th and 7th Streets Sewer Main Replacement Project got underway on Monday, January 19 with DW Excavating prepping manholes and preparing for the bursting of pipe in the park from Chestnut to Park Streets. Welding of the HDPE pipe was being conducted today with pipe bursting in the park from Chestnut to Park Streets starting tomorrow. The sewer crew is flushing and completing camera work in the Port of Wilma. Several point repairs are planned in the County system.

Electric System Activity – A pre-construction meeting for the replacement of the electrical cable at the Quail Ridge Golf Course (QRGC) was held with Clearwater Power Company (CPC) and the QRGC owners on Tuesday, January 20. CPC began work on Monday, January 26 preparing for the boring of conduit which will begin this week. CPC anticipates that the project will take two to three weeks to complete.

Administrative Activity – Legal counsel Joe Brogan announced that he is retiring from Foster Garvey at the end of the month. He is starting up his own firm and will be working for only a few clients. The PUD has an active agreement with Foster Garvey and, under the Board's direction, will continue to utilize their services. The US Army Corp of Engineers contacted the manager to inform me that the 25-year easement for the Port of Wilma, established in 2002, is expiring in 2027. The original 10-foot-wide pipeline easement was established to run a water line under the Snake River to connect to the PUD, but after difficulties in boring under the river, it was changed to install the pipe on the Red Wolf Bridge creating an intertie between the Port and the PUD. The pipeline easement was transferred to the PUD in February 2014 as a part of the transfer of ownership of the water system.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge and Commissioner McCall virtually attended the Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meetings January 14-16. Commissioner McCall reported that at the Water Committee meeting the group heard reports on current legislation, the development of a low-income assistance program and the raid on the Public Works Trust Fund by the legislature due to the projected budget deficit, the exclusion of utility vehicles from the electric vehicle regulations and culvert repair and utility relocation and adequate notification of the work. The group also discussed legislation that would provide immunity and the release of liability to utilities due PFAS issues and the emergence of data centers in the state that are placing a constraint on energy supplies. At the Board meeting they discussed most of the same issues and addressed ongoing water intrusion concerns at the WPUDA office building.

Commissioner Ridge reported that at the Energy Committee meeting the group heard reports on pending legislation and from state regulators regarding the locating of new energy facilities and how to successfully navigate the process. The low-income assistance program requirements for utilities were discussed along with the desire by the state to establish a wildfire prevention and protection council. WPUDA opposes both bills.

Commissioner McCall virtually attended an Energy Northwest (EN) Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, January 22. He reported that the group were briefed about proposed legislation and that there will be 350 to 400 bills submitted during the short Legislative session that ends on March 12, 2026. The group discussed concerns regarding the state's budget deficit and the potential imposing of several categories of taxes including an income tax all of which will affect EN and member utilities. It was stated that many legislators are up for election this year. EN staff reported that the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant is running well. The federal government is requesting the delay of submission for new nuclear facilities due to a back log. Commissioner Jerry Asmussen from Okanogan PUD was elected to the Executive Board. A Bonneville Power Administration representative stated that the Provider of Choice Contract process has been completed. BPA reported that it has been a good water year due to snow in Canada and that lawsuits from environmentalists have kept them very busy.

Commissioner McCall virtually attended a Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) Section I and II meeting the evening of Thursday, January 22. He reported that a state employee discussed the lead service line inventory and replacement regulations and new rules that may be adopted. The manager stated that Asotin PUD is in full compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency and state lead service line regulations.

Commissioner Ridge will virtually attend a Public Power Council meeting on Thursday, February 5.

ADJOURNMENT

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