

January 4, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of PUD No. One of Wahkiakum County, Washington was held on the above date with Board President Robert Jungers presiding. Also in attendance were Board Vice President Dennis Reid, Board Secretary Eugene Healy, General Manager Daniel Kay, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, and Secretary Katie Thomas.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Wahkiakum County Eagle Newspaper reporter Diana Zimmerman and the general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted and Commissioner Healy seconded. Manager Kay would like to discuss the disconnect process in the open discussion segment. Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Healy made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 21, 2021 as submitted and Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF FINANCES:

With regard to the following electric and water vouchers submitted by Auditor Erin Wilson, Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the vouchers for electric and water as submitted. Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. Commissioner Reid questioned the large bill to PCS for approximately \$30,000.00, and Auditor Wilson advised him that the fee was for annual support, upgrades, updates, and hosted software for billing and accounting. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$ 323,296.51

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at that time.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Manager Kay led a discussion regarding the disconnect moratorium that was lifted on September 30, 2021. Today is the scheduled day to start disconnects and the manager wanted consensus from the board to proceed with those disconnects. Discussion ensued. Auditor Wilson confirmed that any delinquent customer can sign a payment agreement and they will not be disconnected, although if they don't make their agreed-to payments they could be disconnected at that time. Commissioner Healy pointed out that there are billing and disconnect policies in force, and the operations people should follow those rules unless they are prepared to change them. Manager Kay stated that disconnects are usually done by noon so there is time for customers to make payments if possible. Commissioners Jungers and Healy agreed to proceed with the disconnects, as did Commission Reid non-verbally.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

General Manager COLA

Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve a 3% COLA for the general manager and Commissioner Healy seconded. Commissioner Reid commented that social security recipients and government retirees received a 5.7% COLA for 2022 and concluded that 3% was a fair number. Discussion ensued regarding the inflation rate, if 3% would be a proper amount to keep pace with that, and the Portland CPI. Commissioner Healy suggested a 5% COLA. Commissioner Reid amended his motion to approve a 5% COLA for the general manager. Commissioner Healy seconded. Discussion ensued. The motion passed 3-0. Attorney Hanigan will do a resolution for the next meeting with language to be retroactive for the January pay period.

Join American Water Works Association (AWWA)

Commissioner Healy made a motion to approve the PUD joining the AWWA and Commissioner Reid seconded. Manager Kay reported the annual membership fee is \$502.00. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Healy stated that he would like the manager to make a point to see if there are materials and/or training available, and to make sure the water employees have access to those benefits. The motion passed 3-0.

REPORTS:

Manager Kay:

Manager Kay provided the following report:

- Storm repair began December 26 and line crews were out through Monday getting power back on. All of the power outages were limb related.

- During the record cold temperatures, water crews noticed high usage patterns on cold days. There were no PUD system leaks, but PUD crews did identify customer leaks.
- Received updated pole attachment agreement
- Working on finishing the tree trimming documents
- He will attend the WPUDA meeting next week in person
- Commissioner Jungers inquired about adding a reclosure and/or fuse protector near Family Camp and commented that this will not impact his power reliability on his personal property, but will protect the vast majority of customers in this area from further problems. Discussion ensued regarding the potential benefits of this addition.

Auditor Wilson:

Auditor Wilson acknowledged the efforts of the customer service staff for going above and beyond their duties for working with customers in arrears. They have tried to get customers in to get help and made the extra effort with empathy and compassion.

Commissioner Healy:

Commissioner Healy provided the following report:

Dec. 30, 2021-Witnessed David Olson swearing in as new Mayor of Cathlamet
 Jan. 5, 2022-Will participate on the nominating committee for officers at COG
 Jan. 5 and 6, 2022-Will attend the PPC meetings via Zoom

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid provided the following report:

Will attend WPUDA meetings next week via Zoom, and will attend in person starting in February.

Commissioner Jungers:

Commissioner Jungers had no report at that time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at that time.

OTHER BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Healy reported that he attended the Town Council meeting January 3, 2022, and they are in the process of naming new liaisons. The PUD will probably not

keep Mayor David Olson as the Town liaison, but another council member will attend meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 4, 2022.

Robert Jungers, President

Dennis Reid, Vice President

Eugene Healy, Secretary