

April 19, 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, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, and Secretary Katie Thomas.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Board Secretary Eugene Healy, Town Councilman Robert Stowe, Wahkiakum 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. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Healy made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 5, 2022 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 commented the commissioners had time to study the vouchers and everything was in order. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$ 292,963.13

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at that time.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Reid would like to have an executive session at the next meeting for the purpose of an informal evaluation of the General Manager. It has been six months and Commissioner Reid would like to provide feedback on Manager Kay's performance. Discussion ensued. The executive session will be held at the second meeting in May as there will be a speaker at the first meeting.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Long Range Planning

Auditor Wilson stated the flow chart that Manager Kay discussed at the last meeting has been drafted onto paper and emailed to the commissioners. She requested the commissioners review it and she welcomed their input and suggestions.

Town Councilman Stowe reported to the board the Town approved rate changes for sewer and water at their last meeting. The changes will be going out to the public for comment this week. Discussion ensued.

Arrearages

Commissioner Reid reported the Department of Commerce is developing a program for utility districts to join to address customer arrearages. Discussion ensued. More clarification is necessary regarding the deadline to join; however, the Commissioners agreed to have the Manager move forward with the program if the PUD is eligible. Auditor Wilson will check in with the Town Treasurer Sarah Clark to see what the Town is doing.

REPORTS:

Manager Kay:

Auditor Wilson provided the following report for Manager Kay:

Manager Kay attended recent PPC meetings regarding BPA post-2028 and the next steps.

Manager Kay attended WPUDA meetings last week.

House Bill 1623 passed both houses but was vetoed by the governor due to perceived redundancy.

Manager Kay has submitted three grant applications to loop water mains on the Puget Island water system.

Manager Kay and Auditor Wilson are developing the scope of work for the camera systems to cover the office, parking lot, and equipment yard.

Pole testing is continuing. There has been less than a 3% rejection rate. Manager Kay hopes the pole treatment will extend the life of poles.

Mike Johnson from Gray & Osborne will be at the next meeting.

Manager Kay reported electric and water crews have been busy connecting new customers and working on leak detection.

Auditor Wilson:

Auditor Wilson is continuing to work with FEMA regarding the January storm. The PUD incurred \$26,000.00 in costs from the storm and will recoup about 75% of that. The storm in December resulted in about \$28,000.00 in costs, although FEMA has not declared that event an emergency yet.

Auditor Wilson will attend a few meetings for Manager Kay this week.

Commissioner Healy:

Commissioner Healy attended PPC meetings on April 6 and 7.

Commissioner Healy attended the PPC 101 webinar on markets on April 11. All 101 webinars are available to anyone who wants to watch.

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid attended the WPUDA monthly meetings last week on Zoom where it was discussed how staff at WPUDA should address issues in the next legislative session. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Reid reported that House Bill 1329 (Open Public Meetings Act) had changes from the Attorney General's office. The Act was changed to include a public comment session before any votes are taken, including the minutes and finances. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Reid reported BPA is satisfied with the current water situation as the snow pack in Canada is at 110% of normal.

Commissioner Reid reported that twelve EV charging stations will be installed along Highway 12 and eight at White Pass.

Commissioner Jungers asked if the Open Public Meetings Act had any requirements to record meetings at this time. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Jungers:

Commissioner Jungers reported that he will not be attending the Energy Northwest quarterly meeting next week in person as the agenda is very standard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at that time.

ACTION ITEMS

Letter of Support for Town of Cathlamet's RCO Grant Application

Auditor Wilson supplied the commissioners with the letter of support from the Town for the redevelopment and improvement of Strong Park and the waterfront trail. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the Town of Cathlamet letter of support the redevelopment and improvement of Strong Park and the waterfront trail. Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

ENW Participant's Review Board Voting Delegate Designation

Commissioner Reid commented that he doesn't think this is necessary as the PUD has a delegate and alternate. Auditor Wilson commented that Energy Northwest only needs the delegate and alternate confirmed every year. With board approval, she can have the manager sign the affirmation and, in the future, keep the process less formal, and the commissioners agreed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 19, 2022.

Robert Jungers, President

Dennis Reid, Vice President

Eugene Healy, Secretary