

February 6, 2024

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 Eugene Healy presiding. Also in attendance were Board Vice President Robert Jungers, Board Secretary Dennis Reid, General Manager Daniel Kay, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary Katie Thomas, Town Councilpersons Laurel Waller and Jeanne Hendrickson, Wahkiakum County residents Gary and Debi Trull, Corbett McMaster, Gary Stephens, Ronald Thielen, and other members of the county.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Wahkiakum Eagle Newspaper Reporter Diana Zimmerman, Jeff Jensen, 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 Jungers seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Jungers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 16, 2024, 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 moved to approve the vouchers for electric and water as submitted. Commissioner Jungers seconded the motion. Commissioner Reid commented the board had ample time to review the vouchers and were ready to vote. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved:           \$219,975.38

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

County resident Jeff Jensen commented that on January 18, 2024, he, along with his neighbors, received a letter from the District 3 Fire Department stating that on April 11, 2024, they would no longer be delivering water to area residents. Mr. Jensen stated he pays taxes along with the rest of the county but doesn't receive any of the county-provided services like police, EMT, fire, etc. Discussion ensued.

County resident Jason Will entered the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Gary Stephens commented he bought his property in 2004 and has to rely on reserve tanks for potable water. He urged the commissioners to make some noise to find federal money. Discussion ensued.

Corbett McMaster commented that many of the properties on Oneida Road, Hull Creek Road, Eden Valley Road, Altoona-Pillar Rock Road, and Deep River Road do not have city water. He stated the commissioners have allowed the west end water system to fail, and he feels it's unfair to have to pay the same in taxes as the rest of the county but not receive the same benefits.

Ronald Thielen commented he purchased his property on Oneida Road in 2019, and was told by the Department of Health he had to have an engineered rain water collection system, with the stipulation that the Fire Department was a backup source. Mr. Thielen stated he has complied with that, but now his property isn't worth a lot without potable water.

Discussion ensued.

Manager Dan Kay responded and thanked everyone for coming. He knows they need a solution, and suggested a fill-station at the fire department as a temporary solution. He would need one person or entity to be responsible for the meter as he is unable to bill fifteen people for one meter. Discussion ensued, including scheduling a workshop to be held prior to the April 11 deadline.

Gary Trull, Debi Trull, Jason Will, Corbett McMaster, Ronald Thielen, Gary Stephens, and the other county residents exited the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

## **DISCUSSION TOPIC:**

### ***Long-Range Planning***

Manager Kay had nothing for long-range planning at this time.

Jeff Jensen exited Zoom at 9:25 a.m.

### ***Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) Policy***

Auditor Wilson provided a brief summary of the new GASB accounting standards affecting subscription based information technology arrangements. Discussion ensued.

### ***Pacific Northwest January Cold Event***

Manager Kay recapped the high points of the recent cold weather event and stated the electricity supplied during the event was mostly from banked hydro energy. Discussion ensued.

## **REPORTS:**

### ***Manager Kay:***

Manager Kay reminded the commissioners that the Resolution from February 2023 waiving competitive requirements states he has to report to the board every year. Although there have been some minor improvements, he is still seeing aggressive price quoting and lead times. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay commented it is the legislative short session right now and reviewed the Bills currently affecting PUDs, including SB 6206 regarding receivership of failed public water systems directly to the PUD. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported the Puget Island Water System maintenance plan is complete and has been approved by the Department of Health. The Puget Island Water System preconstruction project has been approved by the Public Works Department and is on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The capital budget comes out next week so hopefully the project is on there; Manager Kay is still waiting on the official notification.

Manager Kay commented the Department of Commerce awarded \$85 million for EV charging stations around the state. The PUD applied for two Level 2 chargers and was awarded a 100% grant in the amount of \$12,000.00. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported infrastructure is a priority and crews are replacing poles and continuing water system maintenance.

Manager Kay reported Charter-Spectrum is applying for more pole attachments in Skamokawa and out Elochoman Valley Road.

Manager Kay reported he attended the Town of Cathlamet meeting last night.

Manager Kay reported he will attend PPC meetings this week; they are still focusing on the post-2028 contracts.

Manager Kay reported he will attend WPUDA meetings next week and will help out WPUDA staff for the Day on the Hill event.

### ***Auditor Wilson:***

Auditor Wilson reported she filed the annual privilege tax report to the state for privilege taxes in lieu of property taxes. The District will pay \$96,979.00 in privilege tax for 2023.

Auditor Wilson mentioned she met with Manager Kay and the security company for security around PUD property. It's the same company the county and school district uses, and Superintendent Brent Freeman offered to show them the school set up.

Auditor Wilson reported she attended a Clean Energy Transformation Act workshop for low-income assistance programs.

***Commissioner Reid:***

Commissioner Reid reported he will attend the WPUDA meetings next week, including the PUD Day on the Hill on Wednesday. Discussion ensued.

***Commissioner Jungers:***

Commissioner Jungers reported he attended the Energy Northwest meetings two weeks ago. One of their discussions included the "No touch order" for the Columbia Generating Station issued by BPA during the recent cold snap. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Jungers reported he attended the Wah-Fi meeting on January 18. Wahkiakum West CEO Ken Johnson and his engineer would like to "piggy-back" their encrypted repeaters on existing modules. Discussion ensued.

***Commissioner Healy:***

January 25-Attended COG meeting  
February 5-Listened to Town of Cathlamet meeting  
February 7 & 8-Will attend PPC via Zoom

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at that time.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Resolution No. 1283—A Resolution Waiving the State Competitive Bidding Requirement for the Purchase of Geographic Information System (GIS) Software Application and Installation Services**

Commissioner Reid moved to approve Resolution No. 1283 A Resolution Waiving the State Competitive Bidding Requirement for the Purchase of Geographic Information System (GIS) Software Application and Installation Services, and Commissioner Jungers seconded. Commissioner Healy stated RCW 39.04.280 provides for the process for competitive bidding to be waived. Manager Kay confirmed this Resolution is for the purchase of one item only. There was no public comment at that time. The motion passed 3-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Healy revisited the Deep River water issues that were brought up earlier in the meeting. He commented it would be helpful if Commissioner Reid would follow the issue and let the other board members know what is going on. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Reid will attend the meeting with Manager Kay, Corbett McMaster, and other west end residents. It was suggested County Commissioner Gene Strong attend the meeting as it's his district.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

The next regular meeting is February 20, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the PUD meeting room.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 6, 2024.

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**Eugene Healy**, President

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**Robert Jungers**, Vice President

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**Dennis Reid**, Secretary