

May 2, 2023

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 Dennis Reid presiding. Also in attendance were Board Vice President Eugene Healy, Board Secretary Robert Jungers, General Manager Daniel Kay, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary (stenographer) Desiree Conroy, and Wahkiakum County resident Jason Will.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Town Councilman Robert Stowe, Wahkiakum Eagle Newspaper Reporter Diana Zimmerman, Hanigan Law Office and the general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Jungers moved to approve the agenda as submitted and Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Healy made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 17, 2023 as submitted and Commissioner Jungers seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF FINANCES:

With regard to the following electric and water vouchers submitted by Auditor Erin Wilson, Commissioner Jungers made a motion to approve the vouchers for electric and water as submitted. Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$165,442.06

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Wahkiakum County resident Jason Will commented that he had a nice meeting with Manager Dan Kay. Jason also commented that he has been passing around the room a magazine named "Successful Farming". He explained that the magazine has great information. Discussion ensued.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Healy commented that he read the article Jason Will brought in and added that it was a good article. Commissioner Healy explained that the differences between a

PUD and a Co-op have been a mystery to him; however, this magazine explains the differences in an understanding way. Discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Long Range Planning

Manager Kay commented that low-income assistance is a topic that is coming to face, more, you see it in the legislature that is coming out and in previous legislature.

Auditor Wilson commented regarding CETA (Clean Energy Transportation Act) and the low-income aspect in relation to the energy burden. CETA states energy bills can't be more than 6% of a household's income for low-income households. Auditor Wilson explained that PUD's will be required to expand energy assistance program. She added that a number of PUD's have already begun collecting funds for this program for later use. Wahkiakum PUD has built a CETA study into their existing budget. The PUD may have to do a "cost of service" study because this will affect everyone's rates. Discussion ensued.

Wahkiakum County resident Jason Will commented that there were a lot of subsidies during Covid for water and electric. He went on to ask what the dollar amount involved for that was. Manager Kay replied that there were guidelines. \$100 million was split up, an estimated 75% was allocated to electric and around 25% allocated to water.

Auditor Wilson explained that the Wahkiakum PUD received a little over \$22,000 from the government for arrearages. Auditor Wilson explained that the Wahkiakum PUD reported about \$45,000, however, they received about half of that. Discussion ensued.

Change July 4, 2023 meeting date

Auditor Wilson commented that the PUD will be closed on July 4, 2023, and suggested to move the regular meeting to July 5 at 8:30 a.m.

REPORTS:

Attorney Hanigan:

Attorney Hanigan expressed that he would like to take a moment to thank Rick Nelson and the Wahkiakum Eagle. Their commitment to the community is greatly appreciated, he added.

Manager Kay:

Manager Kay reported that Wahkiakum PUD put out a RFQ (request for quotes) for contractors to bid on removing a few large trees on Columbia Street that have caused several outages. Out of the quotes received, Nielson's Maintenance was awarded the

project. Manager Kay explained that this was the first time working with Nielson's Maintenance and the project was a success.

Manager Kay commented that the weather is warming up. The PUD is experiencing a large number of customer inquiries and a large number of pole attachment requests.

Manager Kay reported that the PUD has made some operation efficiencies regarding better operating tools and having transformers ready to go before needing them. Manager Kay explained that a business in town had a transformer go out and within 40 minutes they were able to assess, get back to the shop, load up the trucks, get a new transformer up, and the business back up and running. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported that the PUD doesn't get nearly the number of water customers that they do electric. With that, the crews have been focusing on the main gate valves which are easier to replace for general maintenance versus if they fail and have to be replaced.

Manager Kay reported that the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries is trying to make permanent their Emergency Outdoor Heat Exposure rule that was created and is subject to all outdoor workers including fire fighters, police, PUD workers, etc. This rule requires mandatory rest periods, shade requirements, etc. WPUDA has been very active on this because it causes some extreme issues with possible disastrous consequences. Discussion ensued regarding issues this poses and steps WPUDA is taking.

Manager Kay reported on current grants. Manager Kay explained that the water grant they have been granted through EPA and the Department of Ecology are slowly moving forward.

Manager Kay reported that George Caan from WPUDA has announced his retirement and wanted to give George a thank you for his work. He has worked hard in the last 40 years.

Auditor Wilson:

Auditor Wilson reported that tomorrow (May 3) Manager Kay and herself will be meeting with the PUD's IT consultant to talk about the audio and visuals of the meeting room. Auditor Wilson added if anyone has anything to comment or add regarding the remodel, to send her an email or give her a call.

Manager Kay commented that it was nice to see the Cathlamet City Council adding a visual aspect to their meetings VIA Zoom; he thanked the town for making the change/improvements to be able to attend. Discussions ensued.

Commissioner Jungers:

Commissioner Jungers reported that he attended the quarterly Wifi meeting. He added that they're adding nodes in specific businesses around town. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Jungers reported that he attempted to attend Energy NW last week; however, the link was semi-functional.

Commissioner Healy:

Commissioner Healy reported that he attended the Broadband committee on the 19th, the COG meeting for this month was cancelled, and there will be PPC meetings tomorrow (May 3) and Thursday (May 4).

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid commented that he has noticed that Western Wahkiakum is busy stringing fiber up East Valley Road. The fibers are hung about half way to where PUD lines are hung. Once they have strung all the fiber lines, they will pull it through the conduit at the end and start hooking customers up.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wahkiakum Eagle Newspaper Reporter Diana Zimmerman commented “I just want to say good morning and I appreciate you all so much and I’m glad to know you.”

ACTION ITEMS

Change July 4, 2023 meeting date.

Commissioner Jungers moved to change the July 4, 2023 meeting to July 5, 2023, and Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

The next regular meeting is May 16, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the PUD meeting room.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 2, 2023.

Dennis Reid, President

Eugene Healy, Vice President

Robert Jungers, Secretary