

March 7, 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, and Secretary Katie Thomas.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Town Councilman Robert Stowe, Wahkiakum Eagle Newspaper Reporter Diana Zimmerman, 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 February 21, 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. Commissioner Reid commented they had ample opportunity to review the vouchers prior to the meeting. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved:       \$300,149.92

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment at that time.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Reid commented on a personal level and as a utility, everyone will soon be experiencing the Climate Control Act as gas prices in Washington state will be increasing. Starting next month oil companies will have to buy carbon credits, and the fees will most likely be passed on to the consumer. Discussion ensued.

## **DISCUSSION TOPIC:**

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

Manager Kay reported he had no update to long-range planning at this time.

## **REPORTS:**

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

Manager Kay thanked Commissioner Healy for being actively engaged in the post-2028 process.

Manager Kay provided an update on the BPA and PPC post-2028 contract negotiations and tiered-rate methodology. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay submitted the 2023 tree-trimming quotes he has received, along with a comparison chart with quotes from 2020, 2022, and 2023. Discussion ensued regarding the quotes received, cost per day, and tentative start date. Manager Kay requested the bid be awarded to Davey as they submitted the lowest bid.

Manager Kay reported there have been several new hookups and installations on the electric side.

Manager Kay reported crews have installed new service for new RV hookups at the Port. They have also set a pole for the Town to aid their advanced meter infrastructure (AMI) water meter project.

Manager Kay reported Frankie Mendez is in his last six-month period of apprenticeship. Discussion ensued regarding when he can test into the next level.

Manager Kay reported a power outage recently on Elochoman Valley Road due, most likely, to a vehicle bumping the pole. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported the Skamokawa water system has made some significant improvements on leaks. The system is now at 16%, with a goal of 10%. The crews are looking for trickles rather than large leaks now.

Manager Kay reported the supply chain is not easing up, especially on transformers. He is taking advantage of available programs and ordering 25 transformers that could be available in December 2023. Some quotes for transformers are 60-68 weeks out for delivery. Discussion ensued regarding production issues and competing industries for limited resources.

Manager Kay reported the Congressional direct spending window opened and then closed very quickly. He was able to submit an application for the Puget Island alternate water supply to get something on the table. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported WPUDA representatives will be at the next meeting, but he will be on vacation.

***Auditor Wilson:***

Auditor Wilson provided an update on last Thursday's WPUDA legislative teleconference. Discussion ensued.

Auditor Wilson reported she attended webinars by the State Department of Health and the Rural Community Assistance Program. The District receives additional points on grant applications by attending the no-cost webinars.

Auditor Wilson provided a breakdown of the privilege tax in lieu of property tax. Discussion ensued.

Auditor Wilson reported the District received just over \$40,000.00 last week from FEMA for the January 2022 storm event. Discussion ensued.

***Commissioner Jungers:***

Commissioner Jungers reported the weekly edition of Energy Northwest had an article regarding small modular reactors in the Gulf Coast. Discussion ensued.

***Commissioner Healy:***

Commissioner Healy provided the following report:

Feb. 21-listened to the Town of Cathlamet meeting. The council appointed Joe Baker to fill the vacant council position.

Feb. 23-listened to Council of Governments meeting.

March 1 and 2-attended PPC meetings and noted emerging markets and studies at PPC on proposed pricing. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Healy commented that he noticed the first meeting in July will fall on July 4 and the notice of meeting time/date change will need to be addressed.

***Commissioner Reid:***

Commissioner Reid reported he will attend the WPUDA meetings next week via Zoom.

Commissioner Reid informed the board a customer inquired if water would be installed along the highway in Skamokawa. Discussion ensued regarding costs, possible grant funding, and the limited number of customers available to connect.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at that time.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Award 2023 Tree Trimming and Vegetation Management Quote**

Commissioner Jungers moved to approve the 2023 Tree Trimming and Vegetation Management quote from Davey in the amount of \$3,127.04 for the purpose of discussion. Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. Commissioner Jungers initiated a discussion comparing the 2020 quotes to current quotes and the possibility of shopping for flagging crews to save money. Discussion ensued regarding prevailing wage standards and researching options for flagging crews and traffic control. The commissioners were supportive of the bid from Davey with the caveat that the Manager investigate options for traffic control and flagging in order to save money.

There was no public comment at that time.

The Manager recommended approval of the Davey quote.

The motion passed 3-0.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next regular meeting is March 21, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the PUD meeting room.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2023.

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**Dennis Reid**, President

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**Eugene Healy**, Vice President

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**Robert Jungers**, Secretary