

January 16, 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, and Secretary Katie Thomas.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

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 Jungers seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Jungers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 2, 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 time to review the vouchers and were ready to vote. Commissioner Healy asked about the PURMS charges and Auditor Wilson confirmed the charges were for property assessments, health and welfare, and liability assessments. Discussion ensued. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$324,615.05

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at that time.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Jungers commented a Norwegian company has introduced a new electric-powered airplane with eight “motors”, can carry 90 passengers, and fly 500 miles. Discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Long-Range Planning

Manager Kay commented the legislative short-session started last week and he will be able to find out more about how much funding the District will receive. He has started purchasing materials so invoices will come in and he will see how quickly the PUD can be reimbursed. Discussion ensued.

REPORTS:

Manager Kay:

Manager Kay commented there were very few outages from the recent weather due to tree-trimming efforts. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay commented crews had the infrared camera out last week and found a couple hot spots. They will repair those spots to avoid failure.

Manager Kay reported crews are conducting maintenance to clear roadways to access water towers. They will also be re-reading water meters to look for any anomalies and notify the customer if necessary.

Manager Kay reported he met with Jim Jespersen, Auditor Wilson, and Mike Johnson from Gray & Osborne to get an update on current projects.

Manager Kay reported staff is finishing the application for water rights on Puget Island.

Manager Kay reported there was an all-staff meeting last week to conduct training.

Manager Kay commented the legislative short-session started last week and is only 60 days. They are focusing on environmental issues, small gas engine emissions, and the solar consumer protection Bill.

Manager Kay reported he attended the PPC meeting last week; they are focusing on the post-2028 contracts.

Manager Kay reported he will attend the Town Council meeting tonight.

Commissioner Reid commented the water main froze in Skamokawa. Manager Kay confirmed the main is ductile iron and discussed preventative measures so it won't freeze again.

Commissioner Jungers asked about the process to repair the failed thermal sensor at the Cathlamet substation. Manager Kay said a contractor will fix it next week.

Auditor Wilson:

Auditor Wilson reported she is busy with year-end reporting, the SAO report, and will be participating in the Clean Energy Transformation Act webinars for implementation of mandated low-income assistance programs. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid reported he attended WPUDA meetings last week and highlighted three things that were focused on: CETA and figuring out who needs to be in the low-income assistance program; support for the capital budget request for matching funds for broadband programs; and supporting efforts to include funds in the budget for culvert relocations that will affect PUDs.

Commissioner Reid reported Energy Northwest received \$10-million in initial funding to look into building a small modular reactor at Hanford.

Commissioner Jungers:

In response to Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Jungers commented he is supportive of SMR, but local rates are already low and maybe they should put it in an area where rates are higher, possibly California. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Jungers reported he attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting last Wednesday. Lynette Smith and Teri Howell gave an upbeat and convincing presentation regarding the Wahkiakum mentoring program. The Chamber also accepted Gene O’Neil as a new board member.

Commissioner Healy:

January 3-listened to the Net Metering presentation by WPUDA;
January 11-attended PPC meeting;
January 16-will attend Town Council meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at that time.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

The next regular meeting is February 6, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the PUD meeting room.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2024.

Eugene Healy, President

Robert Jungers, Vice President

Dennis Reid, Secretary