

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS  
March 18, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dan Fagerlie at 9:03 a.m. Present were Commissioners Dan Fagerlie and Chris Kroupa, Attorney Steve Graham, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen.

All stood for the Flag Salute which was led by Commissioner Kroupa.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Fagerlie and unanimously carried.

Visitors: None

Commissioner Fagerlie was contacted by a customer who was concerned that the manager was not reading all the correspondence at the monthly commissioners meeting. Manager VanSlyke assured Commissioner Fagerlie that he is bringing anything of importance to the Board.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. Despite being down a lineman, the crew continues to do productive work. If they are short-handed and not able to do construction, they do line inspections. If one of the tree crew is absent, the remaining one is cruising lines to identify problem areas and update their priority maps.

Commissioner Doug Aubertin joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

2. The BPA needs to schedule a planned outage in the Keller area for maintenance on a switch. The date has not been confirmed but will probably be in June. Our crew will use that time to change a pole and take down some trees.
3. The crew is almost done with replacing poles on the Diamond Bell Tap. The final work will be completed when the weather is warmer.
4. The reclosers that were sent off for maintenance are back and in inventory.
5. Superintendent Brown will be meeting with another pole testing contractor on Wednesday for a quote. The budget amount for testing was doubled this year since the contractor that was scheduled for testing last year never came to do it.
6. Commissioner Fagerlie inquired whether the crew has been issued cell phones and told the group about Wireless Priority Service that is available for emergency workers, including utility crews. It allows emergency calls to have high priority on congested wireless telephone networks.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. He met with other CWPU managers on Friday in Spokane. The group was originally established to handle joint collective bargaining for the member utilities, and to create a group health plan. The southern utilities are facing increased competition for skilled employees and will be increasing wages, which will then impact bargaining for this District. Journeyman lineman have their pick of work, so this Utility must offer competitive wages to attract them. CWPU proposed separating the bargaining and healthcare components, but the IBEW did not approve the change.
2. The April 1<sup>st</sup> wage adjustment for personnel was discussed. Per the CBA, bargaining employees will receive a 2% increase, while non-bargaining employees will receive a 1.3% increase, as per the CPI-W for 2018. Commissioner Kroupa moved to accept the changes on rate Schedule No. 36-19. Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Randy Austin of Vision Metering will be here on April 8<sup>th</sup> to talk about their AMI systems. A discussion followed on metering systems and on the visit with Nespelem Valley Electric Co-op last month to see their system.
4. It is almost time for Manager VanSlyke's annual review. At the Board's direction, it will be scheduled for April's meeting.

A recess was called at 10:06 a.m. for twenty minutes. The meeting resumed at 10:28 a.m.

5. Commissioner Fagerlie inquired about the status of the District's financial statements and was told by Auditor Nush that they should be caught up by May.

The Board went into Executive Session as per RCW 42.30.110 Subsection 1, paragraph i at 10:31 a.m. for twenty minutes for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. The Board returned to regular session at 10:51 a.m. and immediately went back into executive session for an additional 10 minutes. The Board returned to regular session at 11:01 a.m.

There was no further Attorney's Report.

The commissioners presented information from meetings they attended since the last Board Meeting. WPUDA is asking utilities to contact their legislators on some proposed legislation that could prevent the creation of Public Utility Districts. The Board approved Commissioner Fagerlie writing those letters on behalf of the District, with review by Manager VanSlyke.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pam Allen:  
1. Operating Funds available as of March 10, 2019 were \$3,052,243.01 with restricted funds of \$3,165,420.96. There was 1 outage in the month of February, for a year-to-date total of 13 compared to 51 for the same period in 2018. The Large Power Summary, Revolving Loan and Line Extension Loan reports were presented.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. The meeting resumed at 01:00 p.m.

The Board approved two-year terms on the Rural Economic Development Revolving Fund for Gail Kuehne and Katherine Meade. The group reviewed the revisions to the Revolving Fund's Guidelines that were suggested during the February meeting. After some additional changes, Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the amendments to the Guidelines, Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The Auditor's Report was presented by Sue Nush:  
1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board. Cost and usage graphs were presented.  
2. Warrants number 17692 through 17769, Direct Payroll Deposits number 904588 through 904626, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 569, 571 through 576, and 578, in the total amount of \$752,437.52 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Aubertin and unanimously carried.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Public Utility District Number One  
Ferry County, Washington

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

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Vice-President

ATTEST:

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Secretary

APPROVED:

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Manager