

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
January 20, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dan Fagerlie at 9:00 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.

Commissioner Aubertin joined the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

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

There were no public comments.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. The crew is focusing on replacing deficient poles. The goal is to have this finished before the next round of pole testing starts this year.
2. An outage in the Ten Mile Campground area of South Highway 21 was discussed. Superintendent Brown said that area is a mess and the District wants to re-route the distribution line but must get permission from the Forest Service and the State Highway Department. In the meantime, he is going to see whether having a contractor clear out the undergrowth and dead trees will help with access.
3. The Utility is identifying sections of overhead distribution that can be converted to underground. These areas already need to be replaced and changing to underground will decrease future maintenance costs and fire risks.
4. Commissioner Aubertin expressed his concern about the conditions the crew worked in to fix the outage at Ten Mile. They were working in strong winds and cold water. A discussion followed on keeping the crew safe.

The Attorney's Report was presented by Steve Graham:

1. Attorney Graham updated the Board on the appeal of the State Department of Retirement Systems' position that climbing allowances are not reportable wages. The Administrative Law Judge ruled in the District's favor.
2. Ferry County EMS District #1 is returning a section of land near the City Substation that the District gave to them in 2010 to build an EMS Station. They will now be building near the fire station on Keller Street.

A recess was called from 10:01 a.m. for twenty minutes. The meeting resumed at 10:21 a.m.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke updated the Board on the status of the collective bargaining agreement. The CWPU group is negotiating on the State Paid Medical and Family Leave Act. They are hoping to present individual voluntary plans to the State since the group's employees are already covered.
2. The District has received favorable comments about the annual calendar, which contains crew pictures. After discussion, the Board agreed that they want next year's calendar to contain local landscape and wildlife pictures and to seek submissions from the public. Manager VanSlyke will put something in the paper so people can start taking pictures.
3. The State Auditor's Office wants to schedule an Audit Exit Conference. Once a date has been set, a special Board Meeting will be called.
4. The Board's regular February meeting falls on a holiday. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to move the meeting to Tuesday, February 18th because of the holiday. Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.
5. Manager VanSlyke updated the Board on the Keller AMI Project. The gateways have recognized around 290 meters. An additional gateway will be added.
6. The possibility of purchasing a cable plow was discussed again. Superintendent Brown will let the Board know what he finds out.

The commissioners presented information from meetings they attended since the last Board Meeting. Commissioner Fagerlie updated the group on various bills being proposed in this year's state legislative session.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pam Allen:

1. Operating Funds available as of January 10, 2020 were \$3,369,766.29 with restricted funds of \$2,870,413.24. There were 7 outages in the month of December, for a year-to-date total of 135 compared to 205 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 11:58 a.m. The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m. Superintendent Brown rejoined the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

The Auditor’s Report was presented by Sue Nush:

- 1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
- 2. Warrants number 18557 through 18664, Direct Payroll Deposits number 904992 through 905032, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 641 through 650, in the total amount of \$632,427.03 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Aubertin and unanimously carried. Included in this listing was warrant number 18148 in the amount of \$1,690.00 which was voided and reissued as warrant number 18610, and warrant number 18635 which was voided prior to release.
- 3. Cost and usage graphs were presented and discussed.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

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

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager