

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE
April 20, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dan Fagerlie at 9:00 a.m. Present by telephone were Commissioners Dan Fagerlie, Doug Aubertin and Chris Kroupa, Attorney Steve Graham, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen.

The Flag Salute was led by Steve VanSlyke.

After corrections, the minutes of the March meeting were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Aubertin and unanimously carried.

Public Comments:

Commissioner Fagerlie was contacted by a customer who complained about the office lobby being closed to the public. Commissioner Fagerlie has been in contact with Dave Heinen about the private donor willing to help with the upgrade of the school shop electrical system.

Reports:

The Attorney's Report was presented by Steve Graham:

1. Notification was received that Frontier Communications has filed for bankruptcy. Attorney Graham will investigate further but does not believe that it will have any impact on the monies owed by Frontier to the District.
2. Attorney Graham is trying to stay up to date with all the governor's proclamations on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Fagerlie updated the group on the governor's proclamation that was issued on Friday of the previous week. It prohibits utilities from disconnecting customers for non-payment, and utilities must re-connect any customers who were disconnected previously who ask to be re-connected. Utilities must waive late fees and re-connect fees, but customers are not relieved of the obligation to pay their bill.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke updated the Board on what the Utility is doing during the pandemic to comply with state and other agency requirements. He has separated District employees into two work groups. The office lobby is closed to the public. Payments can be dropped in the slot by the office door, mailed, or made by phone. Crew members are driving in separate vehicles, and new construction is on hold unless it can be done with proper social distancing. PPE is available for use, as necessary.
2. Manager VanSlyke has been asked about the status of delinquent accounts and the possibility that the amount of uncollectible debt will balloon. He has been talking about this with Treasurer Allen and the District has not seen many COVID-19 related delinquencies at this time. Treasurer Allen added that she has not seen a significant difference from most months and the District is not receiving many requests for payment arrangements yet. That may change if business closures are extended.

Commissioner Fagerlie informed the group that several Ferry County businesses applied for an emergency grant through the governor's small business emergency grant fund.

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. While the crew has been split into two work groups, they have still been able to complete a lot of work. They are doing system inspections and meter audits. Regular meter readings have been a group effort due to the split schedule. Some community members have expressed concern upon seeing Utility crew out in the field. The work is necessary, and all employees are maintaining social distances and proper hygiene.

The Auditor's Report was presented by Sue Nush:

1. The voucher listing was mailed to the Board for review prior to the meeting.
2. Warrants number 18853 through 18924, Direct Payroll Deposits 905096 through 905136, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 664 through 670 and 672 through 673, in the total amount of \$611,979.96 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Aubertin and unanimously carried.
3. Cost and usage graphs were included in the packet mailed to the Board for their review.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pam Allen:

1. The regular Treasurer's reports were mailed to the Board for review prior to the meeting. Operating Funds available as of April 10, 2020 were \$3,612,256.38 with restricted funds of \$2,883,805.76. There were 4 outages in the month of March, for a year-to-date total of 19 compared to 22 for the same period in 2019. The Large Power Summary, Revolving Loan and Line Extension Loan reports were also included in the mailed packet.
2. The discussion about delinquent accounts continued briefly. All agreed that the District is in sound shape financially at this time.

Commissioner Fagerlie updated the Board on the WPUDA meeting he attended by

teleconference, and his work with TEDD on small business applications for state grant money.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

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

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager