

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
August 17, 2020

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

The Flag Salute was led by Mike Brown.

After correction, the minutes of the July meeting were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Fagerlie, and unanimously carried.

Public Comments:

Commissioner Fagerlie received calls asking about the PUD not meeting the state deadline for its reports.

Commissioner Doug Aubertin joined the meeting by telephone at 9:04 a.m.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. The BPA outage that happened a couple of weeks ago was caused by a tree that tipped over onto their line. It also started a small fire. Superintendent Brown has seen some areas where BPA needs to trim trees.
2. Trenching bids have been received to move certain lines underground. Some work will be done this fall if the contractor is available.
3. The pole testing contractor is supposed to be here in September.
4. A new gate has been installed in the yard behind the office building.
5. The crew has been busy with new line construction.

Steve Graham had no Attorney's Report to present. Commissioner Fagerlie asked him about the status of the Frontier bankruptcy. Attorney Graham said that it is working its way through the court system. The District has submitted its bills so all we can do is wait for payment. Commissioner Fagerlie asked if we should re-submit them. Attorney Graham said that it probably would not hurt.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke updated the Board on the progress made on backing up the District's electronic data. He will develop a new policy for the Board to review.
2. There are still trees near BPA's lines over Sherman Pass. There are buffer areas that the loggers will not touch. After some discussion, the Board agreed that Commissioner Fagerlie will draft a letter to BPA about keeping trees cleared. Commissioner Kroupa asked that a copy of the draft be emailed to him.
3. Manager VanSlyke has been working on an updated cost per foot for line extensions. He will have that figure for the next meeting.
4. The Board was updated on the status of the Keller AMI project. Manager VanSlyke plans to hang the gateways this week so they are ready when AT&T has the network on.
5. BPA has scheduled an outage in the Keller area for September 28th. It will be over 12 hours long.

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 August 10, 2020 were \$3,433,852.67 with restricted funds of \$2,901,718.04. There were 14 outages in the month of July, for a year-to-date total of 69 compared to 75 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. Treasurer Allen updated the Board on the status of delinquent accounts. The District's policy on winter disconnects was discussed briefly. It is currently more lenient than required by the State of Washington. The Board agreed to discuss it at a future meeting.

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 19152 through 19218, Direct Payroll Deposits 905260 through 905299, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 700 and 702 through 706, in the total amount of \$515,028.51 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.

Visitor John Friederichs joined the meeting in person at 9:40 a.m.

The commissioners presented information from meetings they attended since the last Board Meeting.

A recess was called at 9:53 a.m. for seven minutes. Superintendent Brown exited the meeting at this time.

The meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m. for a Revolving Loan/Grant Fund Committee Meeting.

Visitors Dave Heinen and Gail Kuehne joined the meeting in person at this time. Katherine Meade joined the meeting by telephone.

Dave Heinen, shop teacher at Republic High School, discussed his application for a grant to upgrade the electrical service for the shop building. Through grants, he has been able to replace the fume extraction system as well as purchase new welders, a plasma cutting table, and new metal lathes. His goal is to build a welding program that will provide students with the skills to go straight to work when they graduate from high school. Mr. Heinen is also working on being able to provide nationally recognized certifications, and to also provide training for displaced workers. All agreed that it was a wonderful opportunity for the students. Commissioner Fagerlie asked Mr. Heinen if he was able to get assistance from the private donor that Commissioner Fagerlie had suggested. Mr. Heinen is waiting to hear back. Commissioner Fagerlie informed him that the donor has died. Commissioner Fagerlie asked Mr. Heinen if there were funds available from the school since no extracurricular activities are going on at this time. Mr. Heinen said that he inquired but was told that those funds are not available for this kind of expenditure. Commissioner Kroupa asked what will happen to the shop if the bond to build a new school passes in the future? Mr. Heinen replied that the shop building is separate from the school and he would expand the building. His design takes that into account. Mrs. Kuehne said that she typically does not approve of grants, but she is for this project. She then made a motion to approve the grant request for \$18,000 to upgrade the electrical service at the high school shop building. Commissioner Kroupa seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Auditor Nush told Mr. Heinen that the Fund would pay the contractor’s invoice directly, up to the \$18,000 approved. Mr. Heinen invited the committee members to come see it after it is finished.

The meeting of the Revolving Loan/Grant Fund Committee finished at 10:25 a.m. John Friederichs, Dave Heinen, Gail Kuehne, and Katherine Meade exited the meeting at this time.

The regular session resumed at 10:29 a.m.

Commissioner Fagerlie asked Auditor Nush when the books will be ready for the state auditors. Auditor Nush replied that she does not have a specific date at this time. She will inform the Board when she does. Commissioner Fagerlie asked if she would have them done by next month. Auditor Nush replied that she does not have a time yet so cannot say. Commissioner Aubertin said that under the circumstances, she should have until October just like the customers not paying their bills. Commissioner Fagerlie said that when he checked with the county auditor, they met their deadline, and all the other PUD commissioners at his WPUDA meeting said that they met their deadline. Commissioner Aubertin said that with the time Auditor Nush has had to miss, he is fine with where she is at.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One
Ferry County, Washington

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager