

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE
November 30, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dan Fagerlie at 2:01 p.m., pursuant to proper notice thereof.

Attending were Commissioners Dan Fagerlie, Chris Kroupa and Doug Aubertin, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen. Also attending were Revolving Loan/Grant Fund Committee members Gail Kuehne and Katherine Meade. Attorney Steve Graham joined the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Visitors: Sheila Welvaert and Rich Williamson of the TV Association of Republic, Sheriff Ray Maycumber, and Marshall Sumerlin.

A second special meeting of the Revolving Loan/Grant Fund Committee was called to consider a request by the TV Association of Republic to increase the amount of the loan previously approved by the Committee. The Committee had questions at the last meeting that Sheila Welvaert was unable to answer. Rich Williamson told the Committee that about a year ago they heard about a Washington State fund for broadband construction grants. The TV Association applied for a state grant in the amount of \$1.8 million, which required 10% in matching funds. While they waited to find out if they received the grant, they could not touch the funds needed for matching. This meant that for a year they were unable to do further expansion even though they were bursting at the seams. The grants have now been awarded and they did not receive one. Currently they have a microwave dish that covers from the four corners area to Franson Peak. They have run out of capacity on it. The only way to expand service now is to run fiber cable north to Curlew. They can follow the state highway north and connect people along the lake as they go along. They will be able to connect the resorts and provide wireless to some areas they have not been able to reach before. They will also be able provide more bandwidth to the Curlew School, the Curlew Library, and Franson Peak.

Gail Kuehne commented that the updated application was very thorough and answered the questions she had from the last meeting. She is concerned that there is already a loan to the Friends of the TV Association and is concerned about them being able to handle payments on two loans. She understands that this expansion will help a lot of people, so she is not against the loan but would like to have at least 2% interest. Commissioner Fagerlie said that interest rates have dropped tremendously, and he thinks that would be pretty high for a non-profit. Commissioner Kroupa said he was thinking that also, and that the money in the bank is only making .1% interest. His investment advisors are saying that interest rates will not be going up for another five years. Sheriff Maycumber added that this is not just an investment in the Association but in the community. This will provide a backbone for future things that need to be done and he would prefer to have it done by someone who is invested in the area. Commissioner Fagerlie commented that people who are considering moving to the area want broadband.

After further discussion, Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve a loan for \$182,000 for thirteen years with no interest. Gail Kuehne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, with no vote by Katherine Meade who had dropped off the call.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager