

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
December 21, 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 Commissioners Dan Fagerlie and Doug Aubertin, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen. Commissioner Chris Kroupa and Attorney Steve Graham joined the meeting by telephone.

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

The minutes of the regular November meeting, along with minutes from the November 23rd and November 30th Special Meetings, were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Aubertin, seconded by Commissioner Kroupa, and unanimously carried.

Visitor: John Friederichs

Public Comments: A letter was sent to the Commissioners from a customer who does not believe that the District should provide free power on the electric car charger. Other motorists must pay to keep their wheels rolling so he believes that electric vehicles should do the same.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. A used pickup was purchased for the tree crew.
2. Superintendent Brown was contacted by a local contractor about using a special machine to do vegetation clearing in the right of way. They will meet after COVID restrictions are lifted to discuss it further. The District is considering doing some vegetation clearing next year around critical structures, and also applying fire retardant coating on some poles.
3. BPA has contacted Superintendent Brown about scheduling two outages in the Keller area in 2021. They are requesting May 4th and September 28th.
4. Superintendent Brown discussed the recent fire at Tim's Tire Pros. There was some criticism on social media about the amount of time it took for the Utility to cut the power. Because of additions to the building over the years, there was a secondary connection at the building and the lineman could not disconnect there without walking through water with energized power lines. The lineman had to go to the substation to turn the power off there, which took additional time. Given the situation, Superintendent Brown thought that the response time was reasonable.

The Attorney's Report was presented by Steve Graham.

1. Attorney Graham is working on a contract for the Revolving Loan/Grant Fund economic loan approved last month for the TV Association of Republic. Given the size of the loan, he wants to make sure that it is properly secured.
2. After last month's discussion on the electric car charger, Attorney Graham has been looking at the issue of public gifting of funds. Two questions must be asked – is it wise public policy and is it legal? The return on this is a cleaner environment, so it can be argued that it is not gifting, and comparable to the Utility giving customers energy efficient light bulbs. It is a matter of discretion for the District.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke reported he is still investigating options on the electric car charger, including replacing or repairing the inverter, and installing a for-pay charging station. After discussion, the Board agreed to forego making changes until there is more information.
2. Manager VanSlyke is working on updating District policies to reflect the new AMI meters. He is also working on a proposal for the Board that would facilitate the construction of backbone power to new areas in the District.

A recess was called at 9:58 a.m. until 10:20 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m. Visitor John Friederichs exited the meeting at this time.

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 December 10, 2020 were \$3,471,265.97 with restricted funds of \$2,921,295.77. There were 13 outages in the month of November, for a year-to-date total of 122 compared to 128 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. A brief discussion was held on delinquent customers. Governor Inslee has extended his prohibition on disconnecting customers for non-payment through April 30, 2021.

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 19494 through 19575, Direct Payroll Deposits 905417 through 905455, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 732 and 734 through 742, and 744 through 745, in the total amount of \$499,433.99 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Aubertin, seconded by Commissioner Kroupa, and unanimously carried. Included in the listing was warrant number 19309 in the amount of \$326.27 which was voided and re-issued as warrant number 19515. Also included were warrants number 19522 and 19556 which were voided prior to release.

- 3. Cost and usage graphs were included in the packet mailed to the Board for their review, and briefly discussed.

After a brief budget discussion, Resolution 20-04 A Resolution Authorizing Adoption of Budget for 2021 was presented to the Board. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the resolution, Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

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

With no other business before the Board, holiday wishes were exchanged, and the meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One
Ferry County, Washington

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager