

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
February 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Doug Aubertin at 9:03 a.m. Present were Commissioners Doug Aubertin, 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.

The minutes of the regular January meeting were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Fagerlie, seconded by Commissioner Kroupa, and unanimously carried.

Visitors: None

There were no public comments.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. The District has received a factory quote on a cable plow. After a few amendments to it, an order will be placed. When the new machine arrives, the sales rep will be here for training.
2. Superintendent Brown has an interview scheduled this week with a candidate for the journeyman lineman position.
3. Superintendent Brown is still trying to get a commitment from the pole testing contractor to start work early this year since they were unable to schedule us in last year. The crew will be working this year on replacing poles in the Toroda Creek area.
4. January's outages were primarily caused by snow and wind storms. Given the damage in other areas of the state from the big windstorm, the District was lucky.

The Attorney's Report was presented by Steve Graham.

1. Attorney Graham's research indicates that the District will need to submit a resource management plan under the state's Clean Energy Transformation Act. He will have more information at next month's meeting.
2. Attorney Graham has also been looking into phone usage policies by public agencies in Washington. After discussion, it appears that the District does not have issues, but adjustments will be made to the next employee handbook to clarify certain items.

The CEO of Ferry County Health contacted the District about using the message space on its monthly power bills to provide information about COVID vaccinations. A lengthy discussion followed since Attorney Graham had previously advised the District not to use this space for non-utility information. Attorney Graham reiterated that the bills are supposed to be about the customer's contractual legal status with the utility, not advertisement space for other groups. Given the seriousness of the pandemic and that vaccinations can save lives, Commissioner Fagerlie made a motion to make a one-time exception to include COVID vaccination contact information on the next bill. Commissioner Kroupa seconded the motion, and after further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

A recess was called at 10:13 a.m. for twenty minutes. The meeting resumed at 10:33 a.m.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke provided the Board with a cost analysis of the Keller AMI Project, and an estimated cost for installing AMI meters and gateways throughout the District's service area. Besides a very favorable payback financially, there are added benefits such as being able to monitor outages remotely, billing to current usage and bringing accounts receivable current, and not having estimated bills for customers who do not submit a meter reading to the Utility. Manager VanSlyke is reviewing options for moving forward and will have that information for the Board in a couple of months.
2. Manager VanSlyke is still looking at extending backbone power to new areas.
3. The April 1st, 2021 wage schedule with the annual cost of living increase was presented to the Board. After discussion, it was agreed to use the same percentage increase for non-bargaining employees as the bargaining employees receive to keep parity. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the Wage and Salary Administration Schedule No. 38-21 as presented. Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A recess was called at 11:34 a.m. for five minutes. The meeting resumed at 11:39 a.m.

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 February 9, 2021 were \$3,978,169.96 with restricted funds of \$2,812,249.82. There were 36 outages in the month of January, for a year-to-date total of 36 compared to 11 for the same period in 2020. 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. Treasurer Allen has checked with Rural Resources about assistance available for customers who are delinquent on their bill. The only funds available are for customers who qualify for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

The Auditor’s Report was presented by Sue Nush:

- 1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
- 2. Warrants number 19649 through 19723, Direct Payroll Deposits number 905495 through 905533, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 750 and 752 through 756, in the total amount of \$807,770.67 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Fagerlie, seconded by Commissioner Kroupa, and unanimously carried.
- 3. Cost and usage graphs were presented and discussed.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:02 p.m. Attorney Graham exited the meeting at this time. The meeting resumed at 1:01 p.m.

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

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One
Ferry County, Washington

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager