

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS  
May 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Doug Aubertin at 9:00 a.m. Present in person were Commissioners Doug Aubertin, Chris Kroupa and Dan Fagerlie, 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 April 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 cable plow that was ordered is now in Spokane being assembled and should be delivered soon.
2. Superintendent Brown is updating the District's fire mitigation procedures.
3. With some COVID restrictions being lifted, the contractor who provides safety training for the crew is now able to train in person instead of remotely.
4. It appears that a gateway installed on Franson Peak will be able to read AMI meters over a large area, including Job Corps and the Danville area.

The Attorney's Report was presented by Steve Graham.

1. Frontier has emerged from bankruptcy and the District has received a check for the pole contact fees that they owed.
2. Attorney Graham is reviewing the proposed update of the Employee Policies Handbook.

The Board went into Executive Session as per RCW 42.30.110 Subsection 1, paragraph i at 9:44 a.m. for ten minutes for the purpose of discussing potential litigation, returning to regular session at 9:53 a.m. and extending the executive session for another five minutes. The Board returned to regular session at 9:59 a.m.

A recess was called at 9:59 a.m. for twenty minutes. The meeting resumed at 10:23 a.m.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke continued the discussion on fire mitigation procedures.
2. BPA is developing a new public safety power shutoff procedure, where they may shut off transmission due to extreme weather and other environmental conditions to help prevent wildfires.

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 May 10, 2021 were \$4,129,598.16 with restricted funds of \$2,826,594.07. There were 17 outages in the month of April, for a year-to-date total of 69 compared to 32 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. Treasurer Allen discussed the new Rural Resources' assistance program. Applicants must meet certain income qualifications and have been affected by the COVID pandemic. They may receive funds for delinquent rent and utility bills.
3. Treasurer Allen distributed a copy of a WPUDA presentation on the CETA Low-Income Assistance Mandates. A discussion followed on the impact this will have on the District. CETA estimates indicate that the District will be required to help with excess energy costs for up to 41% of its customers. 60% of this cost must be covered by 2030, amounting to an estimated one million dollars a year. 90% must be covered by 2050. The Department of Commerce is still developing the details on how this will work.
4. The current Senior Low-Income Discount program was discussed. The qualifying income level has not been updated in several years. Treasurer Allen will work on a resolution to present to the Board at next month's meeting that will bring it in line with current federal poverty guidelines.
5. A discussion was held on the District's line extension loan program, and if it was the Board's intent for those funds to be available for individuals and businesses. Treasurer Allen will draft some proposed changes for the next month's meeting.

The Auditor's Report was presented by Sue Nush:

1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
2. Warrants number 19866 through 19937, Direct Payroll Deposits number 905613 through 905653, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 776 through 782 and 784, in the total amount of \$712,742.78 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Fagerlie, and unanimously carried.
3. Cost and usage graphs were presented and discussed.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:53 a.m. The meeting resumed at 1:00 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 1:13 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One  
Ferry County, Washington

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager