

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS  
August 16, 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, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen. Attorney Steve Graham attended remotely.

All stood for the Flag Salute.

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

Visitors: None

Public Comments:

Commissioners Kroupa and Aubertin were contacted by a local person who wanted to talk to them about providing information for a monthly pamphlet she was going to publish. They encouraged her to come talk to the Board at a public meeting. Commissioner Fagerlie met with her but did not commit.

Commissioner Fagerlie was also contacted with questions about the power shutdowns because of the fires near Bonaparte Lake, and about the electric car charger being removed.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. The electric car charger was taken down earlier than planned at the request of the owner, Plug-In North Central Washington. They are looking for another location for it.
2. Superintendent Brown and Manager VanSlyke drove to the Walker Creek Fire area to inspect the District's lines. They were only able to look at a small area, but the damage was minor. Since the fire is still burning, they were unable to look at the entire system so it is still unknown what repairs may be needed. Power has been restored to the areas okayed by the fire incident command.

The Board went into Executive Session as per RCW 42.30.110 Subsection 1, paragraph i at 9:38 a.m. for fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. The Board returned to regular session at 9:53 a.m. and extended the Executive Session for an additional five minutes. The Board returned to regular session at 10:01 a.m.

There was no further Attorney's Report.

A recess was called at 10:02 a.m. for twenty minutes. Attorney Graham exited the meeting at this time. The meeting resumed at 10:22 a.m.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke continued the discussion about possible damage to the District's lines in the Walker Creek Fire. Resolution 21-05 A Resolution to Declare a State of Emergency Due to Area Wildfires was presented to the Board. If there is substantial damage, this would help expedite repairs and be required to qualify for possible emergency assistance. After discussion, Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve Resolution 21-05, Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion, and it unanimously carried.
2. Recent power outages have included a car hitting a power pole, a lightning strike to one of BPA's substations, and other BPA problems that resulted in the Keller substation being de-energized. Manager VanSlyke and Superintendent Brown had a discussion with BPA about communicating these outages to the District.
3. The draft Employee Policies Handbook was discussed.
4. Keller area customers are now being billed using the AMI meter readings reported remotely. All new meters and existing meter replacements in the District's service area are now AMI meters as new analog meters are no longer available. Additional gateways will be installed around the service area to expand the number of meters reporting remotely.

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, 2021 were \$3,932,082.63 with restricted funds of \$2,841,463.91. There were 23 outages in the month of July, for a year-to-date total of 131 compared to 69 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. Washington State's moratorium on disconnecting customers for non-payment will expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Utility will begin disconnecting delinquent accounts the first week of October.
3. The District's booth at the upcoming Ferry County Fair was discussed.

The Auditor's Report was presented by Sue Nush:

1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
2. Warrants number 20088 through 20167, Direct Payroll Deposits number 905736 through 905776, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 802 through 807 and 809, in the total amount of \$548,028.43 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Fagerlie, and unanimously carried.

3. Auditor Nush presented a correction to July's Voucher/Warrant Approval listing to include warrant #19575 in the amount of \$321.50 being voided and that amount credited to the returning customer's service account. The revised total payments for July were \$571,938.34. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the corrected listing, Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
4. Cost and usage graphs were presented and discussed.
5. BPA has announced that their power rates will decrease by an average of 2.5% and their transmission rates will increase by an average of 6.1%. The District will not know what this means for this Utility until we receive our rate case. It could vary from the announced rates.
6. Auditor Nush sent a letter to the customers in our service area who were identified by the state as being required to comply with the new rules under the Commercial Clean Buildings Standard. As a small utility, the District is not required to participate unless a customer in this service area wishes to apply for financial incentives available from the state.

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

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One  
Ferry County, Washington

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President

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Vice-President

ATTEST:

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Secretary

APPROVED:

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Manager