

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS  
September 20, 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.

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

Visitors: Lonny and Leslie Williams attended by telephone.

Public Comments:

Leslie and Lonny Williams provided the Board with information about The Highlander, a new publication they are producing for elected officials and the citizens of Ferry County. After their presentation, they exited the meeting.

A recess was called at 9:51 a.m. for twenty minutes. The meeting resumed at 10:11 a.m.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. System damage from the Walker Creek Fire was relatively minor. As far as infrastructure, the best estimation is four poles and two to three transformers and some meters. Efforts by fire fighters to protect the Utility's lines are very much appreciated. There was some miscommunication to customers on when Incident Command approved power to be re-energized in some areas, so Superintendent Brown is working on a communication procedure for future fires. The tree crew has been extremely busy clearing trees damaged by the fire from the right-of-way around the lines.
2. There will be a planned power outage by BPA on the Keller circuit on September 28<sup>th</sup> from seven a.m. to six p.m.

Auditor Nush led the scheduled Budget Workshop. The Board agreed to schedule a Budget Hearing for the next Board meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Figures are still preliminary at this time, but estimated sources and uses were discussed, including proposed capital items. The biggest issues for the 2022 budget are the long lead time in getting supplies and materials and substantial price increases.

A recess was called at 11:17 a.m. for five minutes. Superintendent Brown exited the meeting at this time. The meeting resumed at 11:23 a.m.

The Budget Workshop continued. A lengthy discussion followed on the energy assistance requirements of the Washington State Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) and what impact they will have on the ratepayers of the Utility. Treasurer Allen said that information provided by the State indicates that the District will need to have an additional million dollars in revenue each year by 2030 to cover 60% of those assistance requirements. CETA also requires that Utilities show yearly progress towards this amount. This will eventually require a substantial rate increase for customers.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:01 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

The discussion on CETA energy assistance requirements continued, with no decision made towards the 2022 Budget at this time.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke shared with the Board a thank you note and some chocolates brought to the District by customers Lynne and Larry Castle, who were appreciative of the work the crew did after the Walker Creek Fire.
2. Manager VanSlyke and Auditor Nush discussed the BPA Rate Impact Model for 2022.

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 September 10, 2021 were \$3,687,838.23 with restricted funds of \$2,846,410.79. There were 31 outages in the month of August, for a year-to-date total of 162 compared to 77 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. The Utility will be disconnecting customers for non-payment the first week of October. A notice will be printed in The View advising customers to get their accounts paid or to contact the District to see if they are eligible for payment arrangements. Delinquent customers in the Keller area will receive a door hanger letting them know that because of the AMI meters now in use, the Utility will not be sending a serviceman to Keller. Their power will be disconnected remotely.

Resolution 21-07 A Resolution to Update the District Employee Policies Handbook was

presented to the Board. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Attorney’s Report was presented by Steve Graham.

- 1. Attorney Graham recently attended a meeting of the Municipal and PUD Lawyers Association, which did include some training on wildfires.

The Auditor’s Report was presented by Sue Nush:

- 1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
- 2. Warrants number 20168 through 20263, Direct Payroll Deposits number 905777 through 905817, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 808 and 810 through 819 and 821, in the total amount of \$638,315.05 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.
- 4. Auditor Nush will be working on getting UPN to bill late fees, as previously approved by the Board.

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

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.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