

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
October 18, 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 September meeting were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Fagerlie, seconded by Commissioner Kroupa, and unanimously carried.

Visitors: There were no visitors.

Public Comments:

Commissioners Aubertin and Fagerlie both had customers contact them about trees that the customers believed were a danger to power lines.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. Superintendent Brown was contacted by a customer about some trees in town near the school's bus barn that are damaged. While the trees are unsound, they are not currently a danger to the District's lines. The tree crew will be working with the School District to remove them in the spring.
2. Global supply chain disruptions are causing the District problems in getting materials. Suppliers are unable to honor quotes for more than a short time because prices are going up, and delivery times are extending out to several months. A discussion followed on an emergency resolution District staff has prepared for the Board to consider regarding these supply problems.
3. District personnel will begin reading meters for seasonal customers this week.

The Attorney's Report was presented by Steve Graham.

1. Attorney Graham had no regular Attorney's Report to present but further discussed the proposed resolution on supply problems. He suggested some changes and offered to research the issue further.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. AMI gateways have been installed near Job Corps and Danville. When old meters need to be replaced, or new service is established, AMI meters are being installed. Meters are one of the items with a six-month lead time on orders. Commissioner Kroupa questioned Manager VanSlyke about whether the Board had approved expanding AMI meters beyond the Keller area. Manager VanSlyke clarified that the gateways are preliminary for meters that will eventually go in, and that in previous Board meetings it had been discussed that while no extra funds were being requested to finish the AMI meter project, AMI meters would continue to be installed out of the regular yearly meter budget.

A recess was called at 10:00 a.m. for twenty minutes. The meeting resumed at 10:20 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 October 10, 2021 were \$3,664,761.76 with restricted funds of \$2,853,117.57. There were 16 outages in the month of September, for a year-to-date total of 178 compared to 97 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. Resolution 21-06 A Resolution to Cancel Unclaimed Warrants was presented to the Board. These funds will be turned over to the State of Washington. Commissioner Fagerlie made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Kroupa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer Allen updated the Board on the status of delinquent accounts. Several customers were disconnected for non-payment at the beginning of October. Some are still without power. The District will do more disconnects for non-payment later this week.

The Auditor's Report was presented by Sue Nush:

1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
2. Warrants number 20264 through 20339, Direct Payroll Deposits number 905818 through 905858, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 820 and 822 through 826, in the total amount of \$606,692.20 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Fagerlie, seconded by Commissioner Kroupa, and unanimously carried. Included in the listing was warrant number 20232 in the amount of \$53.22 that was void after being issued in error, and warrant number 18407 in the amount of \$75.61 that was voided and credited to the returning customer's active service account.
3. Cost and usage graphs were presented and discussed.
4. State auditors have contacted Auditor Nush and asked to change their audit frequency from two years to three years. Auditor Nush contacted companies that require audited financial statements from the District, and they have agreed to the delay.

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

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:26 a.m. Attorney Graham exited the meeting at this time. The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

Resolution 21-08 A Resolution Declaring a Civil Emergency was presented to the Board with amendments suggested by Attorney Graham. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This will allow the District to waive bidding requirements for a certain period to purchase line materials during the global supply chain disruption.

Auditor Nush led the scheduled 2022 Budget Hearing. She discussed with the Board how she arrived at figures in the proposed budget. The biggest change from previous years is an increase of a half a million dollars for line materials. Because of the supply chain problems, the District is requesting three times last year’s quantities, and is anticipating increased prices and extended delivery times. No rate increases are being requested for 2022. No vote was taken on the Budget at this time.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One
Ferry County, Washington

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager