

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS  
September 19, 2022

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 and Chris Kroupa, Attorney Steve Graham, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen. Commissioner Dan Fagerlie attended the meeting remotely.

Visitors Liz Anderson and Ron Skagen, representing the Washington PUD Association, joined the meeting.

All stood for the Flag Salute.

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

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. The District is still low on transformers, but some are starting to come in.
2. Structural and dielectric testing on District equipment has been completed and only a few minor repairs are needed.
3. The crew is working on pole replacements.
4. The school district has expressed interest in buying the air compressor the District wants to surplus. A resolution will be presented later in the meeting. Commissioner Fagerlie asked if they would be willing to let us use it as a backup. Superintendent Brown had discussed it with them, and they said yes.

Attorney's Report: There was no Attorney's Report.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. General Pacific was on site and demonstrated one of their commercial drones. There may be some FEMA funds available for the District to apply towards purchasing one.
2. Manager VanSlyke provided an update on the Keller AMI project. The system is very stable but a few of the older meters have required a firmware update. Funds are being requested in the proposed 2023 budget to purchase and install more gateways and AMI meters throughout the Utility's service area.
3. American Tower has contacted Manager VanSlyke about converting their lease to a perpetual easement. Attorney Graham will be working with Manager VanSlyke on the request, and they will have more details for the Board at a future meeting.

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, 2022 were \$3,947,098.97 with restricted funds of \$2,915,110.03. There were 30 outages in the month of August, for a year-to-date total of 106 compared to 162 for the same period in 2021. The Large Power Summary, Revolving Loan and Line Extension Loan reports were also included in the mailed packet.
2. Treasurer Allen told the Board that the Department of Commerce had requested, with only a week's notice, the District's low-income energy assistance goals for 2030 and 2050 under the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA). Treasurer Allen informed them that the District is governed by an elected board of commissioners, and that she did not have the authority to commit the District. It is unclear if the Department of Commerce will assign goals for the District on its own.
3. Treasurer Allen distributed a draft survey to the Board for their review. This survey will be included with customers' bills and asks questions about income and energy usage, which is information needed for CETA reporting. After requesting some changes to the wording, the Board approved the survey.

A recess was called from 10:11 a.m. for twenty minutes. The meeting resumed at 10:31 a.m.

The Auditor's Report was presented by Sue Nush:

1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
2. Warrants number 21090 through 21167, Direct Payroll Deposits number 906269 through 906309, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 909 through 919, in the total amount of \$626,058.20 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.

Liz Anderson and Ron Skagen talked to the group about the Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA). Their mission is to advocate for Public Utility Districts, who provide not-for-profit, locally controlled utility services for the people of Washington. Meetings and training were impacted the last two years by the pandemic, but they encouraged the District to continue its involvement and to fully utilize all the services they provide.

Resolution 22-06 A Resolution Declaring Property Surplus, authorizing the sale of a 1973 LeRoi Dresser air compressor to the local school district, was presented to the Board. Commissioner

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

Liz Anderson and Ron Skagen exited the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

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

Auditor Nush led the budget workshop. Auditor Nush is still gathering information for the proposed 2023 budget. The Board was asked about including funds in next year's budget for CETA energy assistance. After a lengthy discussion, the Board was not inclined to provide any funding at this time, but to continue assessing the energy burden and gaps. Materials and supplies for regular operations were discussed. Prices are higher than in previous years, and there are still delays in getting them. A proposed list of capital expenditures was reviewed. A public budget hearing was scheduled for the next Board meeting, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One  
Ferry County, Washington

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Vice-President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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APPROVED:

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Manager