

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS  
June 17, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dan Fagerlie at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Dan Fagerlie and Chris Kroupa, Attorney Will Gieri, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen.

All stood for the Flag Salute.

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

Visitors: None.

There were no public comments.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. The scheduled BPA outage at Keller went well. BPA completed their repairs, our crew finished their pole replacements, and the power was restored earlier than planned.
2. Scheduled repair work is on-going at the city substation.
3. The pole testing contractor, Alamon, started work two weeks ago and has completed two-thirds of the work. The resistograph testing they use is the least invasive pole testing technology available. They will also provide the District with the GPS location of the poles tested, along with testing results on each, for the Utility's mapping program.
4. The tree crew removed 200 problem trees in May, along with trimming another 50 to 60.
5. Some repairs are being done at the shop, and old tin replaced on the building.

The Attorney's Report was presented by Will Gieri:

1. Attorney Gieri, an associate in Steve Graham's legal firm, attended the meeting in Attorney Graham's absence. As Attorney Gieri may become more involved with the District's legal issues in the future, Manager VanSlyke will arrange a tour of the Utility to familiarize him with its operations.

The Board went into Executive Session as per RCW 42.30.110 Subsection 1, paragraph i at 9:30 a.m. for five minutes for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. The Board returned to regular session at 9:35 a.m.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. A draft resolution in support of the Federal Columbia River Power System and opposing the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams was discussed. Manager VanSlyke will make some changes to the resolution and present it at next month's meeting.

A recess was called at 9:57 a.m. until 10:20 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.

2. The Board was updated on the status of the District's financial statements and the upcoming state audit. After some discussion, the Board directed Manager VanSlyke to provide this information to the Ferry County View to update the public.
3. Manager VanSlyke provided the Board with the results of his investigation into changing the District to automated meters using LoRa technology. Readings from the meters would be collected by LoRa base stations located throughout the service area and then sent back to the District office. The use of automated meters would result in multiple cost savings and efficiency benefits. There would be real-time system status information and immediate outage/failure detection. The crew would be able to see what meters (customers) are down, which would shorten response time to outages. Customers would no longer have to self-report their meter readings, which would provide more accurate, and more current billing. Connects and disconnects would be done remotely. Reduced transportation costs would provide an immediate cost saving, and the crew would be freed up for system inspections and maintenance. The District has a very large service area that is covered by just one line crew, one serviceman, and two tree trimmers. Manager VanSlyke would like to change to automated metering in the Keller area first, as it would provide the greatest potential for savings and the fastest return on investment. It would also provide proof of the viability of LoRa technology for this service area. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to proceed with Phase 1 with long range meter upgrades in the Keller district. Since Commissioner Aubertin was absent, and this would impact his district, a decision on the proposal was delayed until next month's meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.

Attorney Gieri exited the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

The commissioners presented information from meetings they attended since the last Board Meeting. Commissioner Fagerlie provided information from the annual NWPPA conference that he attended in May.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:57 a.m. The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Fagerlie finished his presentation on the NWPPA conference.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pam Allen:

1. Operating Funds available as of June 10, 2019 were \$3,121,928.11 with restricted funds of \$3,161,315.44. There were 5 outages in the month of May, for a year-to-date total of 33 compared to 108 for the same period in 2018. The Large Power Summary, Revolving Loan and Line Extension Loan reports were presented.

The Auditor's Report was presented by Sue Nush:

1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
2. Warrants number 17946 through 18026, Direct Payroll Deposits number 904705 through 904744, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 595 through 599, in the total amount of \$515,122.29 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.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Public Utility District Number One  
Ferry County, Washington

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

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Vice-President

ATTEST:

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Secretary

APPROVED:

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Manager