

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
July 15, 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, Chris Kroupa and Doug Aubertin, Attorney Steve Graham, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen.

All stood for the Flag Salute.

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

There were no public comments.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. The crew has been working on scheduled pole change outs and replacing some old underground cable.
2. The work at the city substation is almost complete. Three lightening arrestors still need to be replaced.
3. The pole testing contractor, Alamon, is finished. They tested 906 poles and found 5 poles that are a high priority to change out, along with about 50 poles that are low priority. These will be worked into the crew schedule as time allows.
4. The tree crew has been doing a lot of service orders. Final cleanup remains to be done in some areas but will be completed after the tree removals are completed.

The Board went into Executive Session as per RCW 42.30.110 Subsection 1, paragraph i at 9:26 a.m. for twenty minutes for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. The Board returned to regular session at 9:46 a.m.

There was no further Attorney's Report.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Representatives from Stonerose brought Manager VanSlyke paperwork for a loan from the Revolving Loan/Grant Fund. Last September, the Fund Committee approved a loan for them to improve their digging site, but it was dependent on them providing a completed loan application along with collateral and financial information. Manager VanSlyke still needs to receive their financial information.
2. The upcoming County Fair was discussed. The Board would like for the District booth to exhibit educational displays on the importance of the Lower Snake River Dams, along with information on the automated meter system (AMI) that the Utility will be installing.
3. Discussion on the AMI system continued. Commissioner Aubertin commented that the Utility is supposed to provide power in the most cost and service efficient way possible and he thought the AMI system would do that. All agreed that using the Keller area for Phase 1 of the project would be a good test of the system and would provide an immediate cost savings due the distance District staff have to travel for meter reads.

A recess was called at 10:55 a.m. for twenty minutes. The meeting resumed at 11:15 a.m.

Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve manager and staff recommendations to proceed with the upgrading of system meters to auto reading capabilities (AMI) for long term substantial cost savings and system reliability, initially to concentrate on the farthest distance, the Kuehne Substation region. Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Resolution 19-04 A Resolution Releasing Special Note Fund 2012 Balance to General Operating Cash Fund was read before the Board. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the resolution, Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Resolution 19-03 A Resolution Supporting the Federal Columbia River Power System, Recognizing its Role in Environmental Stewardship and Opposing Removal of the Lower Snake River Dams was presented to the Board. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion and it unanimously carried.

Commissioner Kroupa directed Manager VanSlyke to put information from the resolution in the local paper. Commissioner Fagerlie stated that it is critical to keep these dams, from both an environmental and a cost standpoint. Commissioner Kroupa would like to see this information used for the District's fair booth to educate the public on this important issue.

The commissioners presented information from meetings they attended since the last Board Meeting. Commissioner Fagerlie, Manager VanSlyke and Attorney Graham met with State Representative Jacquelin Maycumber to discuss the Washington State Public Records Act and issues affecting local governments.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Pam Allen:

1. Operating Funds available as of July 9, 2019 were \$3,063,818.41 with restricted funds of \$3,168,186.27. There were 20 outages in the month of June, for a year-to-date total of 55

compared to 147 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. Auditor Nush discussed the need for a budget revision for the cost of Phase 1 of the AMI project that the Board approved earlier in the meeting. This amount was not included in the budget approved for 2019. A budget hearing will be set for the August meeting for the proposed budget amendment.
2. The Board was updated on the status of the District's financial statements. Auditor Nush distributed unaudited copies of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 financial statements. 2018 is almost finished. State auditors will be here in August to begin their review.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m. Visitors Aaron Edwards, from Ferry County Health, and Jim Milner, from Ferry County Search & Rescue, joined the meeting at this time.

The Auditor's Report was continued.

3. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
4. Warrants number 18027 through 18108, Direct Payroll Deposits number 904745 through 904786, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 600 through 605, in the total amount of \$509,650.59 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Aubertin and unanimously carried.
5. Cost and usage graphs were presented and discussed.

A recess was called at 1:27 p.m. until the AT&T representatives arrived for their scheduled presentation on FirstNet.

The meeting resumed at 1:32 p.m.

Visitors Erica Smith and Weston Ruland from AT&T joined the meeting. After general introductions, Erica explained that the FirstNet program was authorized in 2012 by Congress in response to communication problems encountered by emergency responders during the 9/11 terrorist attacks. AT&T was awarded a 20-year contract to create a nationwide public safety broadband network. This will be accomplished by building new towers and by upgrading existing AT&T towers across the country. Only certain public safety entities are eligible. Primary users are law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, and dispatching. The Utility would be considered an extended primary user, and in the event of an emergency, a primary user would have to uplift the Utility as a temporary Primary user to access the network. A special SIM card is used in cell phones to provide access to this Band 14. Older phones probably would not work, but AT&T has good prices available on phone upgrades. All agreed that this could be beneficial to public safety agencies in Ferry County but the current lack of cell phone coverage in this area is a huge problem. Commissioner Fagerlie pointed out that AT&T's coverage map for this area is not accurate. The map shows coverage for most of the county, but it is not there. Erica agreed that during their drive to Republic, there were large areas with no cell service. Commissioner Fagerlie said that his understanding is that no new coverage is planned for this area. Erica said that two new towers will be built on the Colville Reservation, but there are no plans to add any towers to the north half of Ferry County. Aaron Edwards explained that cell phone coverage is critical for EMS and that people have been hurt or maimed because of no coverage. Jim Milner added that without additional coverage, FirstNet won't really help us. Erica will send information off to her network team about the need for more coverage in this area.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager