

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
October 17, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Vice-President Chris Kroupa at 9:00 a.m. Present in person were Commissioners Dan Fagerlie and Chris Kroupa, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen. Commissioner Doug Aubertin was ill and did not attend.

Visitor Michael Sternberg joined the meeting as a board member representing Stonerose.

All stood for the Flag Salute.

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

Public Comments:

Mr. Sternberg wanted to discuss the District's security deposit policy. Business deposits are applied back to the account after 24 consecutive months of on-time and in full payments. If a month is not paid on-time and in full, the 24 month period starts again. Mr. Sternberg does not believe this is a fair policy. After discussion, the Board said that they could not make an exception for one customer, but they agreed to give the policy further review. Mr. Sternberg exited the meeting at this time.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. Job Corps students are installing a concrete floor in the truck bay at the shop.
2. The District has received a load of transformers. More transformers have been ordered, but there is still an extremely long lead time on them. General Pacific, one of the District's main suppliers, informed Superintendent Brown that there are also supply issues and delays with rubber products.

Attorney Graham joined the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

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

The discussion on security deposits continued. Attorney Graham advised that it is best not to make exceptions to policies. Commissioner Fagerlie suggested allowing some late payments and then applying the deposit to the customer's account. Treasurer Allen said that the District's computer system is not able to track deposits this way, so deposits would have to be manually reviewed each month to see which qualified to be applied back to an account. It was agreed the policy will not be changed at this time.

A recess was called from 10:02 a.m. until 10:25 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:24 a.m.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. There are some extra FEMA funds available after paying for system repairs from a fire near Curlew in 2020. The District is allowed to use these funds for the public interest. Manager VanSlyke would like to use them to purchase a commercial utility drone and a new GPS data collector. There would also be enough to cover the cost for training and licensing some District employees in the operation of the drone. The Board approved this use of the funds.

The Board went into Executive Session for collective bargaining matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4) at 10:35 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. The Board returned to regular session at 10:50 a.m.

2. Manager VanSlyke presented a draft resolution on general wage increases for the Board's consideration. It would tie increases in wages for administrative positions to increases for negotiated positions under the Collective Bargaining Agreement. After discussion, the Board was not comfortable with the resolution. They want to review wage increases each year as opposed to approving unknown future wage increases in advance.

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, 2022 were \$3,835,973.41 with restricted funds of \$2,907,364.17. There were 24 outages in the month of September, for a year-to-date total of 130 compared to 178 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 updated the Board on CETA energy assistance. The District has received back roughly 500 surveys from customers.

A recess was called at 11:27 a.m. for five minutes. The meeting resumed at 11:32 a.m.

The Auditor's Report was presented by Sue Nush:

1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
2. Warrants number 21167 through 21253, Direct Payroll Deposits number 906310 through

906350, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 920 through 925 and 927, in the total amount of \$655,466.28 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Fagerlie, and unanimously carried. Included in the listing was warrant number 19252 which was voided and reissued in the amount of \$156.34

3. Cost and usage graphs were presented and discussed.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Attorney Graham exited the meeting at this time. The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

The scheduled budget hearing was held. Auditor Nush discussed how she arrived at figures in the proposed Budget. Some figures still need to be firmed up, but no rate increases are being requested for 2023. No vote was held on the Budget at this time.

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

Resolution 22-07 A Resolution to Cancel Unclaimed Warrants was presented to the Board. These funds will be turned over to the State of Washington. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Fagerlie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One
Ferry County, Washington

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager