

January 22, 2025

The special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of PUD No. One of Wahkiakum County, Washington, was held on the above date with Board President Robert Jungers presiding. Also in attendance were Board Vice President Dennis Reid, Board Secretary Eugene Healy, Manager Daniel Kay, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, and Secretary Katie Thomas.

Also in attendance were Mayor David Olson, Councilperson Joe Baker, Councilperson Kermit Chamberlain, Councilperson Laurel Waller, Councilperson Robert Stowe, Town Clerk/Treasurer Sarah Clark, Town Attorney Fred Johnson, Wahkiakum County Eagle Newspaper reporter Jennifer Figueroa, Tyson Clark, Bill Wainwright, Shane and Holly Pfenniger, and other members of the community.

Jim Jespersen, Mark Elliott, Erik Friend, and the general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor David Olson contemptuously asserted he was working from a separate agenda that was different than the agreed-upon agenda. Commissioner Jungers pointed out the official agenda had been agreed upon and published several months ago, and Mayor Olson countered that the Town published their own agenda recently. Discussion ensued.

The PUD and Town went through their respective Roll Calls.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW PRESENTATION: Clerk/ Treasurer Sarah Clark with Auditor Erin Wilson

Town Clerk/Treasurer Sarah Clark reviewed the Town's year-to-date budget for 2024 and utility revenues versus expenditures. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding capital projects, grants, cash flow, staffing levels, and town services.

Town Councilperson Jeanne Hendrickson entered the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

QUESTIONS REGARDING PRESENTATION FROM COMMISSIONERS and COUNCIL MEMBERS

Discussion ensued regarding existing and proposed staffing levels, leak detection responsibility, and annual income for the Town.

Commissioner Jungers commented that it seemed some people were under the severe misapprehension that the PUD commission had already agreed to the consolidation, when in fact they had only agreed to study the *feasibility* of a consolidation. They haven't decided if they are even interested in acquiring another utility. Commissioner Jungers reminded

everyone that consolidation negotiations are between the five council members and the three commissioners, and the Mayor and Manager will not be discussing negotiations.

Mayor Olson agreed that no decisions had been made on their side yet and pushed to adjourn after public comment. Discussion ensued.

Councilperson Laurel Waller commented the Council wants to head toward a solution and should try to consolidate if the funds are available. They support the consolidation effort and voted unanimously to pursue this matter. Discussion ensued.

Councilperson Robert Stowe commented the council has worked diligently and efficiently in a workshop setting by themselves, and suggested doing so with just the councilmembers and commissioners present. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Crystal Baker commented fluoride in drinking water poses health hazards and warned of potential health ramifications from fluoride.

Bill Wainwright commented he was hoping to have some understanding of what will happen to the town's financial situation if they continue and asked for an estimate.

NEXT STEP/MEETING DATE:

Councilperson Robert Stowe suggested a workshop with the three commissioners and five council members to discuss the potential consolidation without influence. Discussion ensued regarding available dates. Manager Kay offered to work with Clerk/Treasurer Sarah Clark to find an amenable time and date for everyone to meet.

The Town adjourned their meeting at 7:16 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of the special meeting of January 22, 2025.

Robert Jungers, President

Dennis Reid, Vice President

Eugene Healy, Secretary