

February 4, 2025

The regular 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 Dan Kay, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary Katie Thomas, and Town Councilperson Laurel Waller.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Town Councilperson Robert Stowe, Wahkiakum County Eagle Newspaper reporter Jennifer Figueroa, Austin Smith, and the general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Reid moved to approve the agenda as submitted and Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Healy moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2025, and the special meeting minutes of January 22, 2025, as submitted. Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF FINANCES

With regard to the following electric and water vouchers submitted by Auditor Erin Wilson, Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the electric and water vouchers as submitted and Commissioner Healy seconded. Commissioner Reid commented they received the voucher information to study prior to the meeting and were ready for a vote. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$ 207,747.96

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at that time.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Healy suggested it could be time to consider having a workshop amongst the commissioners to discuss the consolidation issues. Topics to consider during the workshop include the history behind the consolidation and advantages of a consolidation to the ratepayers. Discussion ensued.

Jason Will entered the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Long Range Planning

Manager Kay reminded everyone the next combined PUD/Town workshop will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. He has discussed with the Department of Health what the final steps are to close out the grant for the feasibility study. He also wanted to clarify some misinformation regarding who can receive certain grants or government funds and explained the difference between the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and rehab dollars.

REPORTS:

Manager Kay:

Manager Kay reported that Auditor Wilson has announced her retirement set for April 2025. She has been a strong asset for 21 years and it will be challenging to fill her position. He will need to update her job description and establish a hiring committee.

Manager Kay reported there have been no outages since the last meeting even with the extreme cold and snow. The electric crew should be able to finish the overhead to underground project on Beaver Creek next week.

Manager Kay commented the crew used their mechanic skills to make extensive repairs to the excavator and boring machine. Normally those repairs would have been shipped out but they were able to complete the repairs in-house.

Manager Kay reported the water crew is actively keeping up on the maintenance during the cold weather by looking for leaks and frozen pipes on the customer side.

Manager Kay reported the Level 2 EV charging stations will be installed in the shop next week as part of a grant.

Manager Kay reported the visit with Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez went well. They visited the well site on the island and had a positive meeting.

Manager Kay reported the ex-director of Northwest River Partners stopped by yesterday to discuss the challenges ahead on the Columbia River.

Manager Kay reported he will attend PPC meetings this week.

Manager Kay reported he attended the Town meeting last night.

Commissioner Jungers requested the well-water quality and quantity testing results from the island well. Manager Kay reported Schneider is still fabricating the filter and should have results by the end of this week or next week.

Auditor Wilson:

Auditor Wilson provided an in-depth review of the status and details of current and recent grants. Discussion ensued.

Auditor Wilson also provided a review of the December year-end cash flow. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Healy:

Commissioner Healy reported he attended the January 23 COG meeting at the Port of Longview. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Healy reported he met with PUD staff and Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez on January 29 to visit the island well site.

Commissioner Healy reported he attended the NWPPA meeting on January 30, along with most of the Congressional District 3 PUD Commissioners to discuss public power issues. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Healy reported he attended the Town Council meeting last night.

Commissioner Healy reported he will attend PPC this week in Portland.

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid reported he will attend WPUDA meetings next week in Olympia.

Commissioner Jungers:

Commissioner Jungers reported he will attend the Energy Northwest meeting via Zoom today. The agenda includes selecting a director.

Jason Will exited the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Austin Smith exited the meeting by Zoom at 9:28 a.m.

Town Councilperson Laurel Waller asked for details regarding the EV charging stations Manager Kay mentioned. He said the Level 2 chargers will be in the PUD shop garage for PUD use only. Discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEM:

Acceptance of the January 2025 Water System Consolidation Study Report completed by Gray & Osborne (G & O #23252 January 2025)

Commissioner Reid moved to accept the January 2025 Water System Consolidation Study Report completed by Gray & Osborne as submitted and Commissioner Healy seconded. Commissioner Healy commented the acceptance was the PUD's last step to receive the final funding for the feasibility study grant. Discussion ensued. The motion passed 3-0.

ADJORNMENT:

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2025.

Robert Jungers, President

Dennis Reid, Vice President

Eugene Healy, Secretary