

January 7, 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, General Manager Daniel Kay, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary Katie Thomas, Cathlamet Mayor David Olson, and Wahkiakum County Eagle Newspaper representative Jennifer Figueroa.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Town Councilperson Robert Stowe and the general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Healy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 17, 2024 as submitted and 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 moved to approve the vouchers for electric and water as submitted. Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. Commissioner Reid commented the commissioners received a copy online and had ample time to study them. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$261,990.40

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at that time.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Healy reminded everyone their PDC F1 is due. Discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Long-Range Planning

Manager Kay had no report at this time.

Town of Cathlamet Letter Dated 12/17/24

Manager Kay reported the PUD received a letter from the Town Council dated 12/17/24 and asked the commissioners for authorization to send an acknowledgement letter. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Reid moved to approve and sign the acknowledgement letter to the Town. Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Organization Representatives/Designate WPUDA Voting Representatives (Primary and Alternate)

Auditor Wilson provided the current representative list for review and commented any changes the commissioners wanted would be accepted. Commissioner Reid suggested adding Manager Kay as an alternate to WPUDA. Discussion ensued.

County resident Jason Will entered the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

Commissioner Healy moved to adopt the district organization representatives and alternates as amended, approving Commissioner Reid as the primary WPUDA representative and Commissioner Healy and Manager Kay as alternate representatives. Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

PRESENTATION

2024 State of the Utility

Manager Dan Kay and Auditor Erin Wilson presented the 2024 State of the Utility. Discussion ensued.

Jennifer Figueroa exited the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

REPORTS:

Manager Kay:

Manager Kay reported he has sent the latest rate increases from the Town to Gray & Osborne. They are incorporating past comments from the town, and expect to have the final report out on January 20. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay commented the legislative session will start on January 13 and expects legislation on grid reliability, low income assistance, utility relocation expenses, and telecom. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported the tree-trimming contract RFP will be going out later this week.

Manager Kay reported the electric crew has completed overhead-to-underground projects, and the water crew is continuing to work on valve and meter maintenance.

Manager Kay reported the wellhole has been drilled to 113-feet on Puget Island to non-water material. He reviewed the next steps to be taken, including sealing, disinfecting, and screen-design. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported he will attend PPC meetings this week.

Auditor Wilson:

Auditor Wilson reported Jim Jespersen’s last day will be January 21, the same day as the next regular meeting, and suggested making it “Jim Jespersen Day”.

Auditor Wilson informed the commissioners she sent an email regarding the new company that does phish-testing, and it would be acceptable to click the link.

Commissioner Healy:

Commissioner Healy reported he attended the COG meeting at Longview City Hall on December 19. They weren’t going to have the meeting; however, they are trying to lease a new location and needed to convene. Commissioner Healy reported he has PPC meetings tomorrow and Thursday, and the Wahkiakum Forum of COG on January 14.

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid reported he will attend the WPUA meeting next week in Olympia.

Commissioner Jungers:

Commissioner Jungers had no report at that time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at that time.

ACTION ITEM:

Designate WPUA Representatives (Primary & Alternate)

Commissioner Jungers commented this was already completed.

Acknowledge Receipt of the Town of Cathlamet Letter Dated 12/17/24

Commissioner Jungers commented this was already completed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Jungers recessed the regular meeting at 9:52 a.m. to enter into executive session for thirty minutes to discuss with Legal Counsel the performance of a public employee as per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

There is action expected.

The executive session was exited and the regular meeting re-entered at 10:22 a.m.

Commissioner Reid moved to approve a 5.5% cost of living increase to the manager's salary effective with the January 2025 pay period, and Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

The next regular meeting is January 21, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the PUD meeting room.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2025.

Robert Jungers, President

Dennis Reid, Vice President

Eugene Healy, Secretary