

March 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 Vice President Dennis Reid presiding. Also in attendance were Board Secretary Eugene Healy, Manager Dan Kay, Director of Finance Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary Katie Thomas, and Town Councilpersons Laurel Waller and Jeanne Hendrickson.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Healy moved to excuse Commissioner Jungers from the meeting and Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 2-0.

ROLL CALL:

Town Councilperson Robert Stowe, Wahkiakum Eagle Newspaper reporter Jen Figueroa, Wahkiakum County Building Inspector David Hicks, and the general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Healy moved to approve the agenda as submitted and Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 2-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Healy moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 18, 2025, as submitted. Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 2-0.

APPROVAL OF FINANCES

With regard to the following electric and water vouchers submitted by Auditor Erin Wilson, Commissioner Healy moved to approve the electric and water vouchers as submitted and Commissioner Reid seconded. Commissioner Healy commented they received by the vouchers by email and had plenty of time to review. The motion passed 2-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$243,513.16

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at that time.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Long Range Planning

Manager Kay had nothing to report as the potential acquisition will drive long-range planning.

County resident Jason Will entered the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Establishment of a Consolidation Subcommittee

Commissioner Reid commented there will be further discussion during the action item.

REPORTS:

Manager Kay:

Manager Kay reported the sealed tree-trimming bids were opened last week. Two bids were submitted: one from Davey Tree Surgery and one from Kemp West. Manager Kay recommended accepting the bid from Davey Tree Surgery as it was the lowest bid received, although it came in 3.5% higher than last year. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported the first round of interviews for the Director of Finance position was conducted last week. Sixteen applications have been received so far. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay commented that because no journeyman lineman has applied for the open position, they will be moving forward with an apprentice. He has an internal employee from the water crew that will fit the job position, with the contingency of filling the water crew position before he moves over.

Manager Kay reported the water crew has been busy with new services, cross training, and routine maintenance. There have been no issues from weather-related temperatures and snow.

Manager Kay reported power was restored by 8:00 p.m. Tuesday night from the wind event last week. Crews made temporary repairs at the time, and they have now been permanently repaired.

Manager Kay reported although BPA is an agency of the Department of Energy, they are 100% funded through their customer base. BPA employment has zero effect on the federal deficit. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported he attended the Town of Cathlamet meeting last night. Topics discussed during the meeting included the various local agencies' minutes and the

differences between disinformation and misinformation. Discussion ensued. Manager Kay pointed out the PUD can, in fact, apply for and receive funding and grants.

Manager Kay reported he will attend PPC meetings later this week.

Director of Finance Wilson:

Director of Finance Erin Wilson confirmed she has been participating in interviewing candidates for her replacement and will be participating in interviews for the open water crew position.

Director of Finance Erin Wilson commented she is working on the annual report that is due in May. Her goal is to have that completed prior to her retirement.

Wahkiakum County Building Inspector David Hicks exited the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

Commissioner Healy:

Commissioner Healy reported he attended/will attend the following meetings:

February 18—Attended the Town of Cathlamet Council meeting

February 26—Attended the joint PUD/Town of Cathlamet Council meeting

February 27—Attended Council of Governments meeting at the Port of Longview

March 3—Attended Town of Cathlamet Council meeting

March 5—Will attend PPC meetings in Portland

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid reported he spent three days last week interviewing candidates for the Director of Finance position.

Commissioner Reid commented he has received compliments from the public for the PUD's work during last week's storm, although he is receiving differing opinions on the potential consolidation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jason Will requested an update on the Puget Island well, and Manager Kay reported the well is completed. The consulting company is conducting the water quality testing and results should be in by the end of month.

ACTION ITEM:

Award 2025 Tree-Trimming Contract to Davey Tree Surgery

Commissioner Healy moved to award the 2025 tree-trimming contract to Davey Tree Surgery and Commissioner Reid seconded. Commissioner Reid commented the PUD has past experience with Davey Tree Surgery and didn't see a problem with awarding the contract. Manager Kay confirmed they were the lowest bidder and are well-qualified. They will be able to start around July 5. There was no public comment at that time. The motion passed 2-0.

Resolution No. 1294 - A Resolution Revising the Employment Policy Adopted by Resolution No. 1014 to Amend the Definition of "Direct Relative"

Commissioner Healy moved to approve Resolution No. 1294 A Resolution Revising the Employment Policy Adopted by Resolution No. 1014 to Amend the Definition of "Direct Relative" as submitted and Commissioner Reid seconded. Manager Kay clarified the definition of "Direct Relative" as the first layer of family, i.e., spouse, parent, or child, and removed the second layer (aunt/uncle). There was no public comment at that time. The motion passed 2-0.

Motion to Establish a Consolidation Subcommittee

Commissioner Healy moved to approve the establishment of a consolidation subcommittee and Commissioner Reid seconded. Commissioner Reid suggested Commissioner Healy be on the subcommittee for the PUD. Commissioner Healy declared his primary objective is to look out for the customers, and looking out for the PUD's interest will be secondary. Discussion ensued. There was no public comment at that time. The motion passed 2-0.

ADJORNMENT:

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

The next regular meeting is March 18, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the PUD Meeting Room.

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

Robert Jungers, President

Dennis Reid, Vice President

Eugene Healy, Secretary