

CLALLAM COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT #1

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Main Office | 104 Hooker Road | Sequim, WA 98382

July 12, 2021 – This meeting was held remotely via ZOOM

Commissioners Present

Will Purser, President

Rick Paschall, Vice President

Jim Waddell, Secretary

Staff Present

Doug Nass, General Manager

John Purvis, Assistant General Manager

Sean Worthington, Finance Manager/Treasurer

Tom Martin, Water/Wastewater Manager

Mike Hill, Engineering Manager

Lori Carter, Controller/Auditing Officer

Jamie Spence, HR Manager

Nicole Hartman, Communications Manager

Teresa Lyn, Executive Assistant

Others Present as Identified

Paula Barnes

Janet Marx

Patti Morris

The meeting commenced at 1:31 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon recommendation of staff, and upon motion of Commissioner Paschall seconded by Commissioner Waddell and carried, the Commissioners approved the following consent agenda items:

- a. Minutes of the June 21, 2021 special meeting;
- b. Minutes of the June 28, 2021 regular meeting;
- c. Claim vouchers for June 28 through July 6, 2021 for a total of \$919,256.00;
- d. Payroll vouchers for the period of June 16 through June 30, 2021; and
- e. Removal of delinquent accounts from the July 2021 active accounts receivable totaling \$6,880.33 including a 30% collection fee.

AGENDA REVISIONS

General Manager recommended that today's staff reports be added to the business items, due to Commissioner Purser's need to drive to Richland directly after the meeting. Additionally, a new item was added: Update on District's meeting last week with the County.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

General Manager Doug Nass initiated a conversation about appointing District delegates to NW RiverPartners. He recommended that Commissioner Paschall be appointed as the delegate and Communications Manager Nicole Hartman appointed as the alternate delegate. Upon recommendation of staff, and upon motion of Commissioner Paschall, seconded by Commissioner Purser and carried, the Board approved that Commissioner Paschall shall be appointed as the delegate to NW RiverPartners with Communications Manager Nicole Hartman appointed as the alternate delegate.

General Manager Doug Nass advised the Board of PUD's tentative plans to reopen District facilities to the public. At present, the plan is to reopen from September 1 through October 31 only to delinquent ratepayers for one-on-one meetings with PUD staff about accounts in arrears due to the pandemic. These meetings will take place in the boardroom where social distancing requirements can be followed. We tentatively plan to resume in-person Commissioners meetings on November 8 and staff is looking into the possibility of holding hybrid meetings.

Finance Manager/Treasurer Sean Worthington provided the Board with an update on the possible impact of the Governor's decision to extend the utility disconnection moratorium deadline from July 31 to September 30, 2021. He advised that at the end of June current arrearages were at about \$700,000 which is a 13,000% increase in the 90+ days arrear customers. He predicts that arrearages will reach nearly a million dollars by the new moratorium deadline of September 30th. Despite a letter-writing campaign by Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) and Washington PUD's urging the Governor to not extend the moratorium due to the financial impact to utilities, there has been no response from the Governor's office.

At a recent Clallam County Commissioners' meeting, PUD was approved to receive a requested \$350,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in order to address our ratepayer's current pandemic-related arrearages. We expect to receive a sub-recipient agreement from the County this week and at that point we will start setting up private appointments with our past-due customers to guide them in applying for assistance. He did also advise that the City of Sequim recently received \$56,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, which will be utilized to assist low-income residents pay their utility bills.

Engineering Manager Mike Hill provided the Board with an update on the avian (swan) and power line mitigation efforts taking place on the pond adjacent to Kirner Road in Sequim. PUD and Wave cable will start work in August to bury the power lines near the pond, which will prevent the swan injuries and death which are currently occurring when the swans fly into the lines. The work is scheduled to be completed prior to the swan's November migration period. Several local organizations raised the nearly \$65,000 in funds to pay for the work.

The Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA)'s post-2028 contract is at this point a standing agenda item. There was no new information shared on this issue and thus no discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Paschall met with Commissioner Collins of Jefferson PUD, who noted that there was quite a bit of staff interaction between the two PUDs but not so much between Commissioners of each District. Commissioner Purser advised that at one time Clallam and Jefferson PUD held joint commissioner meetings and suggested that starting up meetings in the future something we might want to look at.

Commissioner Waddell attended a NW RiverPartners meeting. Topic was a request to increase dues to cover reductions in revenue. He also attended a Northwest Power Council Meeting at which the topic was the heat wave in eastern Washington and related power distribution issues.

Commissioner Purser attended Energy Northwest (EN) meetings. He is participating in candidate interviews for the CEO position at Energy Northwest. There are four internal and one external candidate and the CEO selection is expected to be made by the end of July.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS FOR STAFF

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were covered in Business Items.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.