

CLALLAM COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT #1
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Main Office | 104 Hooker Road | Sequim, WA 98382

May 9, 2022

This meeting was held remotely via ZOOM

Commissioners Present

Will Purser, President
Rick Paschall, Vice President
Jim Waddell, Secretary

Staff Present via Zoom

Sean Worthington, General Manager
John Purvis, Assistant General Manager
Lori Carter, Controller/Auditing Officer
Ruth Kuch, Finance Manager/Treasurer
Bill Decker, Forks Superintendent
Mike Hill, Engineering Manager
Jamie Spence, HR Manager
Nicole Hartman, Communications Manager
Tom Martin, Water/Wastewater Manager
Larry Morris, Safety Manager
Sarah Canepa, Financial Analyst

Chelsey Jung, Payroll Coordinator
Julie Metzger, Power Systems Project
Coordinator
Mary Doran, Accountant
Rebecca Turner, Sr. Accountant
Tyler King, Power Analyst
Shawn Delplain, Broadband Supervisor
Eric Jacobson, Business Analyst
Teresa Lyn, Executive Assistant

Others Present as Identified

Brian Grad
Patti Morris
Ken Hays

Cindy Kelley
Janet Marx

The meeting commenced at 1:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:32

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA :54

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

- a. Minutes of the April 25, 2022 regular meeting;
- b. Claim vouchers for April 25 through May 2, 2022 for a total of \$979,450.46; and
- c. Removal of delinquent accounts from the May 2022 active accounts receivable totaling \$17,745.97 including a 30% collection fee.

AGENDA REVISIONS 1:28

In place of Doug Adams, Engineering Manager Mike Hill will present business item B.

BUSINESS ITEMS STARTING AT 1:48

- a. **2:01:** Upon recommendation of staff, and upon motion of Commissioner Paschall, seconded by Commissioner Waddell and carried, the Board authorized District staff to proceed with Bid Award Recommendation Memo for Bid No. 220803 to Pacific Pole Inspection, Inc. of Kelso, WA., for a not-to-exceed amount of \$137,132. This contract is for 2022 pole inspection, testing, and reporting on an unspecified number of electronic transmission and distribution wood poles.
- b. **4:07:** Upon recommendation of staff, and upon motion of Commissioner Paschall, seconded by Commissioner Waddell and carried, the Board authorized District staff to proceed with Bid Award Recommendation Memo for Bid No. 220805 to Olympic Electric Co. Inc of Port Angeles, WA for \$509,000. This contract is to replace and bring up to current standards the equipment of Forks Substation located at 441 West E Street, with an Engineer's estimate of \$547,080.
- c. **5:54:** Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA)'s post-2028 contract discussion: Commissioner Purser advised the BPA will be releasing its position paper at the end of the month. It will not be a response to Public Power's position paper.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS 7:23

General Manager Sean Worthington read a letter of gratitude from Cowlitz PUD thanking Clallam PUD for their recent mutual aid, which enabled Cowlitz to restore power to all of their customers within 24 to 48 hours.

Due to positive employee COVID cases, our customer service department is operating at half-staff. Customers are going to experience longer than normal phone times. We ask for patience as we work to get back up to full staff, hopefully sometime next week. The office to the public, and COVID testing is back in place for employees. General Manager Worthington recommended using the county dashboard at <https://www.clallam.net/coronavirus/> as our gauge and whenever cases are over 200 per hundred thousand (in the high risk category) we will close the office to the public and resume virtual meetings. The Commissioners agreed that this is a good approach.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS 16:00

Commissioner Waddell attended a Western Public Agencies Group (WPAG) meeting. Topics included: utility self-assessment for provider of choice; post-2028 contract next steps; long-term hydro forecast; market initiatives; resource adequacy; and BPA's financial plan refresh. He participated in Clallam Economic Development Council's (EDC) weekly call regarding a potential proposal for the establishment of hydrogen development hubs in Port Angeles.

Commissioner Paschall attended a small modular nuclear reactors presentation, a NW RiverPartners meeting, and a WPAG meeting where an update on the long-term hydro generation forecast was provided; BPA is arguing that there's a structural change because climate change has rendered previous years' water data no longer applicable.

Commissioner Purser attended Energy Northwest's (EN) joint executive board/board of directors meeting. Topics were: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's (PNNL) battery development facility building; the Horn Rapids solar farm, which is backed up partially by battery and performing well; the new 150 megawatt solar farm at Ruby Flats which will be energized in 2023; an application for fast electric vehicle charging infrastructure along Highway 101; and federal infrastructure appropriations of \$6 billion for support of economically distressed nuclear plants (of which CGS is not). He also attended a Public Power Council meeting where he and EN staff gave a presentation on extending the Columbia Generating Station's (CGS) operating license and the estimated cost to upgrade it (\$400 million) in order to produce an additional 200 to 300 megawatts of power.

STAFF REPORTS 32:55

Communications Manager Nicole Hartman advised that over the past three years there have not been any public requests for meeting minutes. Historically, our practice has been to keep a rolling 12 months of minutes on the website and if the public wishes to review older minutes they may submit a public request. Going forward, approved board minutes will accumulate on the website up to two years.

Assistant General Manager John Purvis reported on Clallam County's BPA transmission outage history. Our County ranks within the top seven BPA customers with the most outage minutes for the interval 2015-2019. This is due to the nature of our county's rugged terrain of mountains and rivers and to our distance from Olympia, where the closest BPA line crews stage from. Commissioner Paschall suggested we ask BPA to either move their crew closer in order to reduce BPA staff transit time, and/or have one of our crew trained and authorized to work on the BPA lines. Assistant General Manager John Purvis advised that these two suggestions and others have been previously broached with BPA and we discovered that the complexity of doing either would result in increased costs to our utility. However, the District will continue to monitor and coordinate with BPA whenever feasible to reduce BPA outage durations.

General Manager Sean Worthington reported on the results from the March 2022 District-wide Employee Survey. Commissioners were provided a copy of the results and General Manager Worthington provided a presentation on the results of the top 5 and bottom 5 graded questions. Based on this feedback, management will be focusing on these actions: listening to employees and taking prompt and appropriate action when warranted to address issues; meeting with multiple departments to discuss results and gain actionable steps for improvement; elimination of bottlenecks in the bidirectional flow of information both vertical and lateral; evaluation of staffing concerns related to operations; and a redoubling of effort to ensure equal enforcement and application of District policies and procedures across all departments.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS FOR STAFF 1:40:05

- a. Staff is to look into an attachment shared at a recent WPAG meeting regarding utility self-assessment for provider of choice; and
- b. Going forward, approved board minutes will accumulate on the website for up to two years.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC 1:40:48

Public comment was heard regarding an employee suggestion program; and concern over the historic low levels of water on the Colorado river and how that will affect power generation throughout the system.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.

A detailed transcript of this meeting via audio recording is available to the public on the Commission Meetings page of the PUD website here: <https://clallampud.net/commission-meetings/>.

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