

Minutes of
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY
January 6, 2026
NEWPORT CONFERENCE ROOM, NEWPORT, WA AND
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present: Curtis J. Knapp, President
Dave Rick, Vice President
J. Troy Moody, Secretary

Staff Present: Chris Jones, General Manager
Management/District Staff
Karen Willner, Clerk of the Board

Others: Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP
John Galley, Member of the Public
Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Commissioner Curt Knapp, President followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The minutes from the December 16, 2025 meeting, today's revised agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed.

As of this date, January 6, 2026, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Moody approved the following:

- The revised agenda for January 6, 2026 meeting, and the minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting.
- Vouchers audited certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board. Payment of those vouchers, included in the list referred to above and further described as follows: Voucher Nos. 11200 through 11253 in the total amount of \$506,611.85; ACH payments in the total amount of \$354,247.98; Wire transfers in the total amount of \$8,527,124.94; and ACH payroll transaction in the total amount of \$336,057.81 for the payroll ending December 15, 2025.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Schleich, District Director of Engineering and Operations, introduced Craig Ripplinger, District Principal Engineer, who started yesterday with the District. He

reported that Mr. Ripplinger has previously done work for us and is an experienced and knowledgeable person on our system. Mr. Ripplinger expressed his excitement to work here. The Board welcomed Mr. Ripplinger to the District.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT:

Sheena Thompson, District HR Generalist, reported that we've had 203 days without any safety incidents.

She announced the recent Safety and Teamwork Core Value Awards recipients.

She reported that last month's safety training included HIS Platform, lone worker policy, and records retention. This month's safety training includes fire extinguisher training.

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT:

Shannon Johnston, District Customer Services Supervisor, provided winter safety tips for keeping your electric and water meters and heating system vents clear and accessible.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Commissioner Rick attended the Box Canyon holiday lunch on December 18.

Commissioner Knapp participated in a virtual Energy Northwest conference call to review their governing board and management team on December 23.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Commissioners Rick and Moody will attend the Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) meetings on January 14 – 16 in Olympia.

Commissioner Knapp will attend virtual Public Power Council and Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee meetings on January 7 – 9 and the virtual WPUDA Executive Board meeting on January 9.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:

Chris Jones, District General Manager, reported staff will start IBEW Local Union 77 negotiations on January 21 and 22 at the District. He had a conference call with other PUD general managers yesterday and reported their negotiations are slowly moving along. He reported that our current contract expires March 31.

He reported the weather forecast is calling for quite a bit of snow today so there could be outages and reminded everyone to be careful driving home.

Discussion was held on local negotiations and the economy.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Commissioner Knapp asked if there was any business or comments from the public.

Gretchen Koenig, member of the public, referenced a December 22 Pend Oreille County Commission meeting where a WSU Solar Storage Feasibility Facility presentation was provided. She inquired if Mr. Jones had seen or heard about it. Mr. Jones has not heard about it. Ms. Koenig reported the District was not mentioned in the presentation but she is concerned about how and if this affects District facilities. Discussion was held. April Owen, District Director of Finance, reported WSU is applying for a grant through Washington State that is specific to solar.

John Galley, member of the public, thanked District staff for the work they are doing and is pleased with what he's hearing about the District and staff. He reported that people are aware of what the District is doing and they like it, he hasn't heard anything negative, and the District has a great team that is making it better for the rest of us and people in the county care. Commissioner Knapp expressed his appreciation for Mr. Galley being here and thanked him for his thoughtful comments.

Following a short recess, the meeting resumed.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

Ms. Owen provided a financial review on budgeted to actual cash flows, inflation and interest rates, and the November 2025 financials. Discussion was held. Mr. Jones encouraged the Board to let staff know if they want more information. Commissioner Knapp thanked Ms. Owen and the finance team for their thorough and easy to follow information.

Ms. Owen reported a voucher listing via Docusign will go out early for Board approval signatures and will be resent before the meeting.

She reported staff is gearing up for the Baker Tilly audit in February and it's the same team from Moss Adams.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approval of Declaration of Surplus Property, Fleet Asset #124, 2024 Freightliner Altec D3060E-TR Digger Derrick. Mr. Jones reported staff would like the Board to declare this vehicle as surplus in anticipation of the new Digger Derrick that will arrive in two years. A motion was made by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick to approve and declare the Digger Derrick as being unserviceable, inadequate, obsolete, worn out, or unfit to be used in the District's operations, and no longer necessary, material to, or useful in the operations of the District and, therefore, surplus to the needs of the District. The motion passed unanimously. Staff will proceed as appropriate.

- Approval of Purchase of Altec D3050E Digger Derrick Contract No. 25-311. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Moody to approve the purchase of the Digger Derrick and authorize the general manager to execute the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD WORKSHOP – GOVERNANCE/OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT/PUBLIC RECORDS:

Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP, thanked the Board for inviting him to do this training. He provided a Governance, Open Public Meetings Act, and Public Records presentation. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Knapp announced that following a short recess, a 30-minute executive session for pending and/or potential litigation will begin at 12:00 p.m. in the Riverbend Conference Room. If the executive session needs to be extended he will rejoin the open session to publicly announce an extension. No final action will be taken during the executive session. Following the executive session, he and the Board will rejoin the open session to resume or adjourn the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING AND/OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION:

A 30-minute executive session for pending and/or potential litigation commenced at 12:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Board of Commissioners; Chris Jones, General Manager; April Owen, Director of Finance; Ben Hall, Energy Resources Manager; Sarah Holderman, Director of Customer Services; and Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP. At 12:30 p.m., Commissioner Knapp publicly announced a 15-minute extension to the executive session. The executive session ended at 12:45 p.m. and the Board returned to open session. No final action was taken during the executive session.

Commissioner Knapp reported the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026, starting at 8:30 a.m., in the Newport Conference Room, in Newport and via Microsoft Teams. He adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

General Counsel
Approved as to Form