

Minutes of
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY
February 6, 2024
NEWPORT CONFERENCE ROOM, NEWPORT, WA AND
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present: Joseph B. Onley, President
David W. Rick, Vice President
Curtis J. Knapp, Secretary

Staff Present: John Janney, General Manager
Management/District Staff
Karen Willner, Clerk of the Board

Others: Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public
Ken Pillers, Member of the Public

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Joseph B. Onley, President.

BOARD WORKSHOP:

Discussion was held regarding scheduling strategic planning workshops, utility bill format, fiber mapping demonstration, and fire alarms.

Philip Roice, District Engineering Manager, introduced Chris Wilson, District Project Engineer and reported that he started yesterday. Mr. Wilson provided his background. Discussion was held. The Board congratulated him and welcomed him to the District.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The minutes from the January 30, 2024 meeting, today's revised agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed.

As of this date, February 6, 2024, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Rick approved the following:

- The revised agenda for February 6, 2024 meeting, and the minutes of the January 30, 2024 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. 9056 through 9077 in the total amount of \$38,769.84; ACH payments in the total amount of \$67,274.12; and Wire transfers in the total amount of \$49,229.15.

The motion passed unanimously.

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT:

Amber Gifford, District Customer Service & Contracts Manager, reported that anyone who donates in person at our Newport office to our Neighbors in Need fund for the month of February will receive a PUD logo tote bag. This information is in our Customer Connect newsletter.

She reported that February 14 is the response deadline for our Customer Satisfaction Survey.

She reported an update to our SmartHub site will occur on February 14.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Commissioner Knapp attended a virtual Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) bill tracking session on February 1. He spoke with customers regarding the Economic Development Council, our public records request procedure, cryptocurrency, and our PUD Calendar program. He had a virtual meeting with John Janney, District General Manager, yesterday. He met with Shannon Johnston, District Communications & Utility Services Coordinator, regarding items for the WPUDA PUD Day on the Hill event next week in Olympia.

Commissioner Rick had a virtual meeting with Mr. Janney yesterday.

Commissioner Onley attended a Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce quarterly meeting on January 31 in Newport and reported that Mr. Janney was the guest speaker. He commended Mr. Janney for discussing his vision for the community. April Owen, District Director of Finance, was also in attendance. He had a virtual meeting with Mr. Janney yesterday.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rick will attend an Ione Town Council meeting tomorrow in Ione, the WPUDA meetings on February 14 – 16 in Olympia, and the Board meeting on February 21 in Newport.

Commissioner Knapp will attend a virtual Public Power Council (PPC) meeting on February 8. He and Mr. Janney will have a meeting with Newport Hospital staff on February 12. He will attend the WPUDA meetings on February 14 – 16 in Olympia and the Board meeting on February 21 in Newport.

Commissioner Onley will attend a Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce meeting tomorrow in Newport, the WPUDA meetings on February 14 – 16 in Olympia, and the February 21 Board meeting in Newport.

Commissioner Onley announced that a 30-minute executive session on pending and/or potential litigation and to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale will begin at 9:00 a.m., in the Riverbend Conference Room with Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP, attending virtually. 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 the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING AND/OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION AND TO CONSIDER THE MINIMUM PRICE AT WHICH REAL ESTATE WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE:

A 30-minute executive session on pending and/or potential litigation and to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale commenced at 9:00 a.m. The following were in attendance: Board of Commissioners; John Janney, General Manager; April Owen, Director of Finance; Sarah Holderman, Director of Customer Services; and Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP, virtual. The executive session adjourned at 9:30 a.m. and the Board returned to open session. No final action was taken during the executive session.

GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE:

Mr. Janney thanked Sonya Scaufaire, Selkirk Sun, for giving him a tour of the north county and introducing him to community members on January 30 following the Board meeting. He wants to get involved more with communities in North and South County – as well as the Newport area. He reported the District will advertise in the Selkirk Sun newspaper to provide information to our customers and community in the north county. We are trying to find an information source to advertise with for the south county. Commissioner Onley commended Mr. Janney for taking a tour of the north county and meeting community leaders.

Sarah Holderman, District Director of Customer Services, reported a public hearing will be held on February 21 to discuss proposed electric system line extension fee and charge updates. Staff will ask the Board for approval at the March 5 meeting. She reviewed the proposed updates. Discussion was held.

She reported the Community Network System (CNS) proposed fee updates will be included in the public hearing.

Nik Reed, District Broadband System Network Administrator, provided the proposed CNS service updates. Discussion was held.

Ms. Owen provided a yard light statistics update.

ACTION ITEM:

- Public Power Council Financial Support Request. Mr. Janney reported we are members of PPC and they have made a funding request for support against the potential breaching and removing of the Snake River dams. He explained this funding request is a way for utilities to pull their resources together. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Rick to approve the PPC Financial Support Request in the amount of \$1,433. Discussion was held. The motion passed unanimously.

Following a short recess, the meeting resumed.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

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

Ken Pillers, member of the public, relayed concerns regarding the cost to relocate a meter. Mr. Janney thanked him for attending and for raising his concerns. He reported that staff is reviewing the matter and our policy and will get in contact with him. Commissioner Onley thanked Mr. Pillers for attending and voicing his concern.

Gretchen Koenig, member of the public, asked if there were any broadband grants updates for the north county. Ms. Holderman provided an update. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Onley adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21 at 8:30 a.m. in Newport and via Microsoft Teams.

There being no further discussion to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

General Counsel
Approved as to Form