

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 10, 2022
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The first regular Commission meeting for May 2022 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on May 10, 2022 and commenced at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Russell E. Olsen and Chris Stearns were present for the hybrid meeting hosted via Zoom video conferencing and in-person at District Headquarters, located at 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, Washington 98503; Commissioner Linda Oosterman was excused from the meeting. The following personnel were also present for the meeting:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance and Customer Service Manager (FCSM)
- Ruth Clemens, Administrative Services Manager (ASM)
- Kurin Miller, Clerk to the Board

Call to Order:

Commissioner Olsen called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Stearns made a motion to amend the agenda to include excusal of Commissioner Oosterman for the regular Commission meeting on May 10, 2022: Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve the agenda as amended: Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: April 26, 2022
Prequalification of Contractors: None
Correspondence: None
Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: April 27, 2022, May 4, 2022
- 2) Payroll: May 5, 2022

Other:

- 1) Resolution 22-16, Residential Toilet Rebate Program
- 2) Excuse Commissioner Oosterman from Regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Approval of Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented: Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comment:

Only one member of the public was present in-person (Mr. Jerry McDonald), but this person did not wish to leave public comment. There were no online attendees.

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Introduction and Discussion – New URAC Applicant

Mr. Jerry McDonald, a PUD customer and recent applicant for the Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC), introduced himself to the Commissioners and gave some information on his background. Each Commissioner addressed Mr. McDonald. **Commissioner Olsen made a motion to accept Mr. McDonald as the newest member of the URAC: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

Discussion – 2023 Budget Process Overview

GM Weidenfeller presented revised information for the 2023 Budget Process. Based on this revised information, the GM proposed to modify the timing of this year's budget and ratemaking process due to critical factors like inflation, supply shortages, market fluctuations, and uncertainty from engineers on key projects as some of the factors impacting this year's budget process. Commissioner Olsen spoke about recent inflation and adjusting the 2023 Budget to reflect inflation later in the year and asked about supply shortages and/or lead times related to the Asset Management Plan (AMP); Commissioner Stearns asked about working with rate analysts in the future and spoke about his support of finding solutions that incorporate renewable energy. GM Weidenfeller addressed the Commissioners' questions and spoke to the next steps in the proposed budget process.

Discussion – Preliminary 2023 Budget Priorities

AGM Parker introduced the list of priorities to address in the 2023 budget. Commissioner Olsen asked about the District's financial dashboard and making it's information available on the District's website for the public. AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question. Commissioner Stearns asked about the evolution of the District's relationship with Springbrook over time, and AGM Parker addressed this question.

Both GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker spoke about the AMPs for District buildings and vehicles. Commissioner Stearns asked about any contingencies related to possible issues with the new Field Operations office. AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question.

Action/Approval Items:

Resolution 22-15, Authorization to Surplus

AGM Parker addressed Resolution 22-15 which would authorize staff to surplus and dispose of PUD-owned equipment and materials that are no longer used or needed. **Commissioner Stearns made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-15 as presented: Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

Commissioner Signatures/Break: None

Presentations:

FCSM Tartt gave an update on the letters recently sent to customers, including customers with high water consumption based on last year's history, and those customers with PFAS detections. The FCSM also addressed customer letters to be sent by the end of the month. Commissioner Olsen asked about any responses received from customers. Commissioner Stearns asked about the District's backflow

device testing requirement for the Pattison water system, and asked staff to explain what a backflow event is to Mr. McDonald, who is a Pattison water system customer. FCSM Tartt and DFO Campbell addressed the Commissioners' questions.

ASM Clemens reported that the Governor is lifting a part of the current emergency proclamation in effect that relates to public meetings and the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). GM Weidenfeller reported on the feedback the District has received regarding the recent Broadband Assessment.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions and Reports:

Commissioner Stearns reported on his trip to Washington D.C. for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Fly-In event as part of the Washington Water Utilities Council (WWUC) delegation. The Commissioner also attended a Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meeting earlier in the week; he spoke about the topics discussed at that meeting.

Commissioner Olsen reported on a work trip he recently took to Los Angeles. The Commissioner discussed several different topics, including debt/unpaid water bill forgiveness in California and infrastructure projects.

Commissioner Oosterman was excused from the meeting.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Stearns made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Assignments: None

Russell E Olsen

[Russell E Olsen \(May 26, 2022 13:14 PDT\)](#)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Christopher Stearns

[Christopher Stearns \(Jun 3, 2022 14:14 PDT\)](#)

Chris Stearns, Commissioner and Vice President











Minutes 05102022

Final Audit Report

2022-06-03

Created:	2022-05-25
By:	Julie Parker (julieparker@thurstonpud.org)
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