

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The second special meeting for September 2025 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on September 30, 2025. The meeting 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. District staff present at the meeting include:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance Director (FD)
- David Gruver, Assistant Director of Field Operations (ADFO)
- Kurin Miller, Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) and Clerk to the Board
- Kalelia Gipson, Customer Service Representative and Associate Clerk to the Board

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: September 2, 2025, September 9, 2025

Prequalification of Contractors:

- 1) Fuller Designs & Engineering, Inc.
- 2) Asphalt Patch Systems, Inc.

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: September 10, 2025, September 17, 2025, September 24, 2025
- 2) Payroll: September 19, 2025

Other:

- 1) Resolution 25-29, Authorization for GM and DFO to Keep PUD Clothing Upon Separation
- 2) Emergency Waiver of Competitive Bidding Requirements, September 11, 2025 – Skookumchuck 612

Approval of Consent Calendar:

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

Public Comments:

There were no public comments received during the meeting.

Consideration of Appointments:

Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC) applicants Art Starry and Samantha Smithingell were present at the meeting. Both individuals addressed the Board and spoke to their backgrounds; both Commissioners spoke to the individuals as well. **Commissioner Olsen made a motion to appoint Art Starry and Samantha Smithingell to the URAC as of September 30, 2025: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

Public Hearing – Proposed 2026 Budgets, Rates, Fees, Charges, Surcharges, and 2026 Proposed Ad Valorem Assessment

Because there were no members of the public present (besides the two URAC applicants), the Board decided to move forward with the Public Hearing – staff did not go through the presentation on the Proposed 2026 Budgets, Rates, Fees, Charges, Surcharges, and Ad Valorem Assessment. **At 5:10 p.m., Commissioner Stearns opened the Public Hearing on the 2026 Proposed Budgets, Rates, Fees, Charges, Surcharges, and 2026 Proposed Ad Valorem Assessment. The District received written testimony from three customers, but there were no members of the public present to provide testimony in person. Commissioner Stearns closed the Public Hearing at 5:11 p.m., and the regular meeting resumed.**

Action/Approval Item(s):

Resolution 25-24, Proposed 2026 Operating Budgets

Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-24 as presented: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Resolution 25-25, Proposed 2026 Capital Budget

Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-25 as presented: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Resolution 25-26, Proposed 2026 Rates, Fees, Charges, and Surcharges

Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-26 as presented: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

DWSRF PFAS Contracts Interest Payments

FD Tartt provided information on interest invoices received for the \$6.9 million in funding from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program. The funding was provided with 100 percent loan forgiveness, but the District is required to pay interest at a rate of 1.75 percent until the District's PFAS remediation projects funded through these monies are completed. The Board approved paying for the loan interest payments via the EPA/WA State Emerging Contaminants Remediation Fund.

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller reported on the acquisition of the Dana Passage water system, specifically the compilation of a purchase and sale agreement for that system. Commissioner Stearns asked about the District's preparedness for the expected Federal shut-down; the GM Weidenfeller addressed the Commissioner's questions.

AGM Parker reported on additional funds to be received from the DuPont settlement. The AGM also reported on the exit conference with the Office of the Washington State Auditor (SAO) following the two audits performed by their office.

ADFO Gruver spoke about fall and winter preparation work the Field Operations staff is completing, per Commissioner Olsen's request.

DPC Gubbe spoke about engineering costs for Project 2 for mainline replacement at the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 water system, now higher than originally estimated. Commissioner Stearns asked how overruns will be handled by the District; the DPC addressed the Commissioner's question. The Board approved staff adding the resolution to the Consent Calendar at the next Commission meeting. DPC Gubbe also reported on issues with obtaining an automatic transfer switch to complete the Pattison 500 water system project.

Commissioner Stearns asked about pumps failing this year due to heat/summer weather: ADFO Gruver addressed the Commissioner's question.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions, and Reports:

Commissioner Olsen reported on his last trip to Washington D.C. as the National Chair of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials. The Commissioner spoke about upcoming plans to work in the legislative arena on behalf of the District. The Board spoke briefly on this topic.

Commissioner reported on his participation with the exit interview with the SAO and District staff, and he also spoke at length about his attendance at the September Association meetings for WPUDA in Grant County. The Commissioner also discussed the upcoming Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) meeting and the General Manager evaluation.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Assignments: None

Christopher Stearns
Christopher Stearns (Oct 23, 2025 11:11:00 PDT)

Christopher Stearns, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Russell E. Olsen
Russell E. Olsen (Oct 14, 2025 18:35:40 PDT)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and Vice President

Minutes 09302025

Final Audit Report

2025-10-23

Created:	2025-10-15
By:	Julie Parker (julieparker@thurstonpud.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA3Qrp0Cr47jgdl6Jn_yf7-4ui941u2-M

"Minutes 09302025" History

-  Document created by Julie Parker (julieparker@thurstonpud.org)
2025-10-15 - 0:44:12 AM GMT
-  Document emailed to Christopher Stearns (cstearns@thurstonpud.org) for signature
2025-10-15 - 0:44:16 AM GMT
-  Document emailed to Russell E. Olsen (rolsen@thurstonpud.org) for signature
2025-10-15 - 0:44:16 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Russell E. Olsen (rolsen@thurstonpud.org)
2025-10-15 - 1:35:21 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Russell E. Olsen (rolsen@thurstonpud.org)
Signature Date: 2025-10-15 - 1:35:40 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Email viewed by Christopher Stearns (cstearns@thurstonpud.org)
2025-10-23 - 6:10:36 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Christopher Stearns (cstearns@thurstonpud.org)
Signature Date: 2025-10-23 - 6:11:00 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-10-23 - 6:11:00 PM GMT