

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2021
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The second regular meeting for June 2021 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on June 22, 2021, commencing at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Russell E. Olsen, Linda Oosterman, and Chris Stearns were present for the teleconference meeting hosted via Zoom. The following District employees were also present for the meeting:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- 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 Oosterman made a motion to approve the agenda presented: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2021

Prequalification of Contractors: None

SMA Contracts: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: June 9, 2021, June 16, 2021
- 2) Payroll: June 21, 2021

Other:

- 1) TPUD Employee Picnic – Friday, September 24, 2021
- 2) Resolution 21-26, Water Facilities Easement – Foxhill Reservoir Site

Approval of Consent Calendar:

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

Public Comment: None

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Presentation – Redistricting Options

Ramiro Chavez, the County Manager for Thurston County, gave a presentation on redistricting options for Thurston County. Commissioner Oosterman asked about Commissioner district and precinct information as well as the approach to the County's redistricting proposal. Commissioner Oosterman and Commissioner Stearns discussed this topic with CM Chavez in more detail.

Discussion – COVID-19 Updates

ASM Clemens discussed the new guidance circulated by the Department of Labor and Industries. This guidance has been discussed with District employees this week, and the ASM also spoke about vaccination statuses. Commissioner Stearns asked about the Governor's moratorium on past due fees and evictions; FCSM Tartt addressed the Commissioner's question. Commissioner Oosterman asked about considerations for the new COVID-19 variants; ASM Clemens addressed the Commissioner's question.

Discussion – Telecommunications

ASM Clemens discussed her recent work on the Broadband/Telecommunications Project, including her work meeting with several entities and anchor institutions within Thurston County. The ASM also reported on the status of the published survey among rural communities and the proposal to expand to District customers in Thurston County. Both the ASM and GM Weidenfeller also discussed a timeline and upcoming objectives for the project.

GM Weidenfeller asked for feedback from the Board on point-of-contacts with elected officials in Thurston County. Each Commissioner provided information to the GM for the project going forward.

Action/Approval Item(s): None

Commissioner Signatures/Break: None

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller discussed the Keanland Park water system and heavy water use patterns at this system. Commissioner Stearns asked if the issue is a water rights issue or a capacity issue, and he also asked about a model that may be available to approximate how long this issue will be present; Commissioner Oosterman asked about the system's reservoir. DPC Gubbe addressed the Commissioners' questions. Both Commissioners discussed this issue with staff in more detail.

GM Weidenfeller also discussed seismic valves and the alternatives to this possibly costly process. Commissioner Olsen asked about the prior motion to approve seismic valves; GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question. Commissioner Stearns asked about the Shake Alert alternative compared to seismic valves and how this alternative works; DPC Gubbe addressed the Commissioner's questions. The Board supported staff's decision to move forward with the ShakeAlert alternative to seismic valves.

GM Weidenfeller also reported on leadership training for AGM Parker and FCSM Tartt. Commissioner Stearns asked about Rate Hearings for the 2022 Budget; AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question.

DPC Gubbe reported that the Risk and Resiliency Report, required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will be completed by the end of June. The DPC also reported on a chlorine shortage. Commissioner Stearns asked about the Reserve water systems, specifically treatment and flushing at these systems; DFO Campbell addressed the Commissioner's question.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions and Reports:

Commissioner Stearns reported on his work coordinating the WPUDA Water Committee meeting, as well as his attendance at the WPUDA Strategic Planning meeting, a Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meeting, and a meeting on water supply for the Columbia River Basin.

Commissioner Oosterman will not attend Chamber meetings in-person at this time. The Commissioner reflected on the ShakeAlert topic discussed earlier in the meeting, and she reviewed the information presented at the Partners in Emergency Preparedness webinar she recently attended. Commissioner Oosterman also discussed a “lessons-learned” reflection for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Olsen met several times with GM Weidenfeller and ASM Clemens on the Broadband/Telecommunications Project. He reflected on his work and how this will effect the District going forward.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was listed on the agenda, however Commissioner Olsen declined to call an Executive Session for this meeting.

Adjournment: Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Schedule a Shake Alert presentation by Dan Ervin with Varius at an upcoming Commission meeting.

Russell E Olsen

[Russell E Olsen \(Jul 15, 2021 13:57 PDT\)](#)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Linda Oosterman

[Linda Oosterman \(Jul 15, 2021 17:31 PDT\)](#)

Linda Oosterman, Commissioner and Secretary

Minutes 06222021

Final Audit Report

2021-07-16

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