

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2020
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

The regular meeting for September 2020 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, commencing at 5:01 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)
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- Ruth Clemens, Administrative Services Manager (ASM)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance and Customer Service Manager (FCSM)
- Kurin Miller, Clerk to the Board

Call to Order:

Commissioner Olsen called the regular meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Stearns made a motion to amend the agenda to include Resolution 20-31 as an Action Item; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: September 1, 2020, September 8, 2020

Prequalification of Contractors: None

SMA Contracts: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: September 9, 2020, September 16, 2020
- 2) Payroll: September 20, 2020

Other: None

Approval of Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented;

Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments:

No members of the public were present.

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Presentation and Q&A – John Kounts, Bill Clarke, George Caan, and Nicolas Garcia

The following individuals were present for a presentation requested by Commissioner Stearns: John Kounts, WPUDA Water Program Director, George Caan, WPUDA Executive Director, Nicolas Garcia,

WPUDA Policy Director, and Bill Clarke, attorney. John Kounts led a discussion on several issues related to drinking water and the District. Discussion was extensive and included several topics including public works and water project funding, partnerships with Washington State Department of Health (DOH), municipal water law, taxing and franchising, utility relocations and Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT), the "Foster decision," water banking and water rights laws, PFAS, and challenges presented by COVID-19.

Update – District Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

ASM Clemens reported on the Governor's proclamation regarding the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), working with employees with school-age children, and air quality issues due to wildfires.

FCSM Tartt reported on past due notices that were recently sent, as well as sending a targeted letter to customers with balances more than 120 days past due. AGM Parker gave an update on the District's revenue and residential versus commercial consumption through August.

GM Weidenfeller reported on his contact with the Department of Health, the Washington State Association of Counties, and the Department of Commerce in regard to obtaining CARES Act monies for the District. The Board addressed GM Weidenfeller.

Action/Approval Item(s):

Resolution 20-31, Letter of Intent to Purchase Pattison Water System

GM Weidenfeller presented Resolution 20-31. Commissioner Olsen and GM Weidenfeller commented on transparency to the public regarding the intent to purchase the Pattison water system. Commissioner Stearns asked about an issue related to rate changes; he also asked about preparation to address ratepayers and their questions. GM Weidenfeller addressed these questions. **Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve Resolution 20-31 as presented; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

Commissioner Signatures/Break:

There were no physical documents to sign.

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller presented a tentative schedule regarding the Pattison water system purchase. Commissioner Oosterman requested a meeting schedule for October. The Board and GM Weidenfeller discussed scheduling and information to be presented at the two Public Meetings scheduled in October. GM Weidenfeller also read the letter to be sent the following day to Pattison Water Company customers. ASM Clemens spoke to details around the letter, information provided to new customers, and the Public Meetings scheduled.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions and Reports:

Commissioner Oosterman reported on an upcoming Emergency Management meeting she will attend.

Commissioner Stearns attended WPUDA meetings with Commissioner Oosterman earlier in the month. He also reported on upcoming meetings he will attend, like the WPUDA Water Workshop and the Chehalis Basin Partnership.

Commissioner Olsen will attend the upcoming Utility Advisory Rate Committee (URAC) meeting. The Commissioner also reported on an article covering a candidate quote on broadband access in Thurston, Lewis, and Cowlitz counties.

An Executive Session was listed on the agenda. However, Commissioner Olsen declined to hold the Executive Session, and the Board voted to adjourn.

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 7:12 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Create a meeting schedule for the Commissioners for October and send to Commissioner Oosterman.



Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:



Chris Stearns, Commissioner and Secretary