

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2019  
OF  
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1  
OF  
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

The first regular meeting for March 2019 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at the PUD administrative office located at 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, WA 98503, commencing at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Russell E. Olsen, Linda Oosterman and Chris Stearns were present for the meeting. The following District employees were present: Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM), Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO), Ruth Clemens, Senior Communications Specialist (SCS), TaSeana Tartt, Senior Accountant (SA), and Staci Mozee-Ramos, Clerk to the Board. Also present were, Erica Schilt, Senior Operations Specialist (SOS) and Rich Holmes, Meter Reader II (MR II). John Weidenfeller, General Manager, (GM) was present through phone conference.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Olsen called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to approve the amended agenda; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; all in favor.

**Consent Calendar:** Approval of Minutes: February 26, 2019, March 6, 2019  
Prequalification of Contractors: None  
SMA Contracts: None  
Correspondence: None  
Voucher Approval:  
1) Accounts Payables: February 27, 2019, March 7, 2019  
2) Payroll: March 5, 2019  
Other: Resolution 19-11 Authorize Change Order 1 FCS Group, Inc.

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

**Public Comments:** None

**Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:**

**Resolution 19-09, Meter Collection and Route Management System:**

AGM Parker requested moving forward with selection of a vendor for our meter collection and route management system. Two vendors were evaluated through a request for qualifications and a request for proposals process. Out of two vendors, one was selected and is recommended, the Badger system through General Pacific. AGM Parker made a proposal to select this vendor and purchase 2 handhelds, a laptop computer and software with a base price of \$29,760. The annual fees to maintain software, licensing and hosting are \$4,642. Approval was also requested for the

amount of \$17,340 for contingency that would secure an additional handheld and computer if necessary for operations in the future.

MR II Holmes and SOS Schilt discussed Itron meters and the Sensus and Badger system meters and the difference in quality and efficiency between them. Itron meters are failing at around a 10-year lifespan whereas the Badger meters have not yet failed. The Badger vendor came out with a new version of the current equipment called M.E. Endpoint which can migrate into automated meter reading infrastructure.

Commissioner Olsen asked about focusing on efficiency and if the newer solutions would benefit the performance of staff by time and labor.

MR II Holmes discussed newer solution devices that are compatible with applications that consumers can manage themselves. He discussed how the data is transmittable to send alerts if there is any tampering, leak detection and backflow.

DFO Campbell discussed a water outage over the weekend in the Walczak system. This system has 70 meters that have a very high failure rate. In the future we would like to deploy cellular or radio read meters or another technology to address these failed meters.

Commissioner Oosterman raised the question of the PUD being a 'Green' company with efficiency. Commissioner Olsen declared that he can look into what would be considered becoming 'Green' for the PUD.

**Resolution 19-10, Policy and Procedure Update:**

AGM Parker stated the resolution addresses two policies that are out of date. The Public Record Disclosure Policy was updated to comply with current laws. The Vacation and Sick Leave Policy clarified current practices.

**Action/Approval Items:** None

**Commissioner Signatures/Break:** The Commissioners took a break and signed documents at 5:36 p.m. The Commission meeting resumed at 5:45 p.m.

**Presentations:**

**General Manager, DFO & DPC Reports:**

AGM Parker discussed a crossing on I-5 that was installed in 1965 by PUD that was exposed by the Scarcella Bros. Construction Company while constructing the new access road near Tanglewilde-Thompson Place water system. Dan Lovell, Field Technician II, has been working with DOT and Scarcella Bros. to determine what it would take to preserve the crossing.

AGM Parker disclosed that it will be \$15,000 to extend the line sixty feet so it will not be concealed by the freeway expansion and will extend past a storm water line. During the freeway planning period it was not noticed that the PUD had this 1965 crossing that is fully permitted within the DOT right of way. DOT is allowing the PUD an extension to file the paperwork

needed to extend the line. The process to extend the line will start tomorrow, March 13, 2019, and will be completed in a week. AGM Parker explained to the Board why we should keep the crossing and the value of the crossing.

AGM Parker discussed Kim Gubbe's Director of Operations and Compliance Report. She noted that the Sward and Platt water system well will be performing a 15-hour pump test to determine if the well is able to produce 5 gallons a minute over the entire time. The results of this will result in the determination of the storage size required. AGM Parker also stated that approval was given from the State Department of Health to extend the deadline to complete this project for the drinking water loan through the end of the year.

**Commissioner Topics, Discussion and Reports:**

Commissioner Oosterman provided information from the Emergency Management meeting and discussed how the meeting put together a County-wide Emergency Management Program. The emergency training exercise scenario was designed around a 9.0 earthquake and 7.0 aftershocks that would follow for a week. Commissioner Oosterman explained that she was disappointed that water was not chosen as a high priority.

Commissioner Oosterman also mentioned that JW Foster, Mayor of Yelm, was extremely interested in what GM Weidenfeller and SCS Clemens had provided with information and mapping and mentioned Thurston PUD at the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Oosterman discussed interlocal agreements noting that she does not have the full details on them but they may be discussed thoroughly at the next bi-annual meeting. She stated that the Port was not present at the meeting. However, she stated that the first group we should make agreements with should be the Nisqually Indian Tribe.

Commissioner Olsen responded with his concerns on making interlocal agreements that cannot be documented when a crisis may occur. He recommended examining the process thoroughly before making any agreements.

Commissioner Stearns announced that on Monday, March 11, 2019, the Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) had a legal brief on the Crown West decision. He made a comment on the policies that Ecology has proposed changing and stated that the Department of Ecology should not change the policies if they are not in compliance with the Municipal Water Law.

Commissioner Olsen said he would like to discuss options with GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker to help incentivize getting the new meters put in that will help customers manage their own usage. He recommended working outside of meetings to come to a conclusion that is revenue neutral and that could be presented to the Board at a later date.

Commissioner Stearns asked about follow-up at Timberline Village with the leak detection. DFO Campbell said he was following up and had a meeting scheduled tomorrow, March 13, 2019, with the head leak detector, head meter reader and sampler to develop a plan for leak detection.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

**Assignments:**

1. Commissioner Olsen will look into what would be considered becoming 'Green' for the PUD.
2. Commissioner Olsen suggested discussing options with GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker on strategies to help incentivize getting the new meters put in that will help customers manage their own usage. He recommended working outside of meetings to come to a conclusion that is revenue neutral and present to the Board at a later date.

  
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Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:  
  
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Chris Stearns, Commissioner and Secretary