

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The second regular meeting for February 2022 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on February 22, 2022, commencing at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Linda Oosterman, Russell E. Olsen, and Chris Stearns were present for the virtual meeting hosted via Zoom video conferencing. The following personnel were also present for the meeting:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance and Customer Service Manager (FCSM)
- Ruth Clemens, Administrative Services Manager (ASM)
- Jessie Salter, Customer Service Representative
- 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 as presented: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2022

Prequalification of Contractors: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: February 9, 2022, February 16, 2022
- 2) Payroll: February 18, 2022

Other:

- 1) Resolution 22-05, Hawley Hills Consolidation Engineering Contract Amendment

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:

Introduction of New PUD Employee

FCSM Tartt introduced Jessie Salter, the District's new Accounting Assistant. Ms. Salter's background was discussed, and each Commissioner welcomed and spoke with the Accounting Assistant.

Discussion – COVID-19 Updates

ASM Clemens reported on several items, including the distribution of rapid COVID-19 tests, hospital capacities, vaccine statistics, and the Governor's announcement to end the face mask mandate in

Washington state. Commissioner Olsen asked to add a discussion item to the next regular Commission meeting to discuss returning to in-person meetings.

Discussion – Broadband and Telecommunications

ASM Clemens reported that NoaNet is drafting a feasibility report for the District, based on the Broadband Project survey and accompanying research. A draft of this report should be forwarded to the GM by March 1, and the final report will be added to the agenda at the second Commission meeting in March.

Discussion – Audio/Visual Solutions Proposal Award – Justice AV Solutions

AGM Parker presented the proposal information received from Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) for audio/visual solutions to be installed in the Commissioner Meeting Room at PUD Headquarters. JAVS Regional Sales Manager Kevin Otey was present to answer questions the Commissioners may have. Each Commissioner asked questions regarding the proposal, and the Board discussed this topic with staff and Mr. Otey. The Board approved AGM Parker to add a contract with JAVS to the Consent Calendar at the regular Commission meeting scheduled on March 8, 2022.

First Reading – Resolution 22-06, Employee Job Classifications and Salary Ranges

GM Weidenfeller introduced Resolution 22-06 which would add a new position, Engineer III, to the Employee Job Classifications and Salary Ranges. Commissioner Stearns asked about street repair and how the Engineer III position will oversee this work. GM Weidenfeller discussed this topic with the Commissioner at length.

Action/Approval Items: None

Commissioner Signatures/Break: None

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller submitted a written report, but he did not have any additional information to update the Board on. Commissioner Olsen asked about recent increase in water outages for District-owned systems. The GM addressed the Commissioner's question. Commissioner Stearns updated the Board on information related to the delay of decision making by Thurston County on the Green Cove Creek culvert replacement project. GM Weidenfeller also spoke about the proposed proviso in the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) budget. Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Stearns discussed this matter with the GM further.

AGM Parker reported that all of the Utility Relief Assistance Program (URAP) funds have been exhausted and awarded to all qualified customers. The AGM also reported on customer delinquencies and the District's partnership with the Community Action Council. Commissioner Stearns reported on his contact with legislators regarding public utility arrearages.

AGM Parker spoke about the engineering contract for the Timberline Village water system as part of an update for DPC Gubbe's report. DPC Gubbe and DFO Campbell were excused from the meeting.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions and Reports:

Commissioner Stearns reported on several items, including his concerns on recent inflation and the topics discussed at the meetings he has recently attended.

Commissioner Oosterman reported at length about the psychological effects of COVID-19 per the information presented at a meeting she recently attended. The Commissioner also spoke about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Commissioner Olsen reported on a personal matter. The Commissioner also discussed the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The Board discussed this matter in further detail. Commissioner Olsen also talked about reopening strategies at the state level.

Executive Session: None

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 6:05 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Add a discussion item to the Commission meeting scheduled on March 8, 2022 regarding the return to in-person meetings.
- 2) Add a discussion item to the Commission meeting scheduled on March 22, 2022 for the Broadband Project feasibility study.
- 3) Send a get-well e-card to Thurston County Commissioner Tye Menser from the Thurston PUD Board of Commissioners and GM Weidenfeller.
- 4) Add the contract for audio/visual solutions with Justice AV Solutions to the Consent Calendar on the Commission meeting agenda scheduled on March 8, 2022.
- 5) Add the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan engineering contract for Timberline Village water system to the Consent Calendar on the Commission meeting agenda scheduled on March 8, 2022.
- 6) Review the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) and current inflation to determine if any rate increases or salary/wage adjustments are required. Bring a report with recommendations to the Commission meeting of June 14, 2022.

Russell E Olsen

[Russell E Olsen \(Mar 9, 2022 09:13 EST\)](#)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Linda Oosterman

[Linda Oosterman \(Mar 9, 2022 14:41 PST\)](#)

Linda Oosterman, Commissioner and Secretary









Minutes 0222022

Final Audit Report

2022-03-09

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| Created: | 2022-03-09 |
| By: | Julie Parker (julieparker@thurstonpud.org) |
| Status: | Signed |
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