

Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
2:00pm

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-President Dan G. Gunkel called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. as advertised.

PRESENT: Dan G. Gunkel - Vice-President and Douglas B. Miller - Secretary

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Smith - General Manager, Mike DeMott - Director of Finance and Power Management, Brandon Johnson - Engineering Manager, Cara Smith - Accounting Clerk, Sharon Blodgett - Water/Wastewater Coordinator, Brandy Myers - Customer and Accounting Services Manager, Mark Garner - Engineering Supervisor and April Greenlaw - Operations Administrative Assistant.

VIA-TELECONFERENCE: Alex Casimiro - RNG Support Assistant, Cynthia Bruce - Accounting Supervisor, Kevin Ricks - Renewable Energy Assets Manager, Patrick Carroll - Contractor, Sarah Honkala - Accountant, Seth Jones - Buyer and Courtney Collins - Engineering Support Assistant.

GUESTS: Jeff Thayer and Larry Hocter

PLEDGE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

MINUTES: **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to approve the January 09, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL: Presented by Cara Smith. Vouchers were audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and all expense reimbursement claims presented were certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 and were recorded on a listing made available to the Board this 23rd day of January, 2024.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Miller to approve accounts payable vouchers and payroll in the amounts as listed:

- Accounts Payable Voucher Nos. 218419 through 218546 in the total amount of \$1,221,060.33; Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transaction Nos. 556 through 560 and Wire and Automated Clearing House (ACH) Nos. 8801904 through 8801913 in the total amount of \$2,558,928.84 for the period ending January 23, 2024; and
- Payroll ACH Direct Deposit Payroll transactions 213349 through 213435 in the total amount of \$307,727.67 for the payroll period ending January 14, 2024.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

REPORTS:

Water Wastewater Report - Sharon Blodgett presented the department report for December. Sharon shared with the board that the Washington State Department of Health approved an additional 54 water connections in the Glenwood water system, thus ending the need for a connection moratorium. Staff will notify the customers in the Glenwood system by letter.

To give perspective of some of the issues the W/WW department experienced during the single-digit cold snap, Sharon shared a video of a water leak in Rimrock located at one of the water sampling stations.

The W/WW operators also responded to a sewer blockage issue on Sunridge Avenue in Dallesport. The operators found 100 feet of rope in a manhole and in the lines that caused the blockage. Staff completed a report and sent it to the county, stating this did not happen by accident. Staff also sent automated calls to customers advising minimal use of the sewer system while the operators worked to clear the line.

Operations Report - April Greenlaw presented the department report for November and December. We ended 2023 at an Average Service Availability Index (ASAI) of 99.968%, which is .003% shy of our goal of 99.971% for the year. After completing the reports for 2023 and averaging out the previous ten years excluding the best and worst performing years, the ASAI goal for 2024 will once again be set at 99.971%.

We ended the year having completed a total of 182 miles of tree trimming. In house, the tree crew fell 484 trees between November and December. April also reported on the outages for the worst substations and feeders.

Engineering Report - Brandon Johnson presented the department report for November and December. Staff will be attending the annual irrigator's meetings held in Centerville and Bickleton February 21 and 27. Next week we will meet with the Alderdale customers at which time Engineering staff plans to address issues, lead times, and continue the discussions pertaining to bird related outages. Brandon shared a video of the birds in masses while advising that we are seeing that leftover fruit left on the grapevines is attracting birds in the millions, causing outages. This is also not taking into consideration any of the nuisance trips customers in the areas are experiencing. One discussion we are preparing to have is that there is a cost with our response time and the damaged equipment. Brandon asked what the board's ideas or thoughts are leading into the meeting, regarding how we start with cost recovery discussions on this. Commissioner Miller asked what the cost was to go underground. Brandon said millions and this is an impact to KPUD and all customers.

Brandon also informed the board that Allegiant will be finishing their meter exchanges in the county today. Staff will install the remainder of the meters and project completion is slated for June. During the previous commission meeting, the end of the AMI opt-out period was discussed. Brandon confirmed that the opt-out policy states that opting out will not be an option once the project is substantially complete.

Mark Garner presented the customer engineering report for November and December. Goldendale district has 14 customer work orders, with an additional 3 waiting to be scheduled and 2 pending other requirements. We also have 7 scheduled in White Salmon, with 4 more ready to be scheduled and 7 pending other requirements.

Mark has also been working with Sohn Kartes and Mike Nixon to determine inventory requirements for 2024, including transformers. The Goldendale crews have been working on router installations, and the meter shop and the White Salmon crew have been working on the upgrades and exchanges for 3S and 4S meter forms.

COMMISSIONER DAN GUNKEL - Commissioner Gunkel did not have a report.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS MILLER - Commissioner Miller will attend the EDA meeting at 6PM this evening.

Commissioner Miller is also watching WPUDA's Senate Bill 6206, which would change the provider of last resort for failing water and waste water systems from the County to the local PUD. Jim advised that Dave Warren is watching this bill, and Dave doesn't expect this bill to move.

Senate Bill 2234 states that this bill impacts those with more than 25,000 “customers” and it should be “meters”. He asked staff to confirm the definition of customer for this bill.

COMMISSIONER RANDY KNOWLES - Commissioner Knowles was not present for the meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER – The complete report can be found at:

http://www.klickitatpud.com/topicalMenu/commissioners/GM_Reports.aspx

In addition to the written report, Jim Smith presented the following information:

John Janey has moved back to the Pacific Northwest and has taken the general manager position with Pend Oreille PUD.

Jim reviewed an email from Rick Allen, who asked it be referred to the Board.

Jim expressed his appreciation for everyone’s efforts and the care they provided to our customers over the last two weeks.

AGENDA ITEMS:

A. **BRIGHTER GOLDENDALE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION:**

The committee did not attend the meeting.

B. **GLENWOOD WATER CONNECTIONS AND WATER RIGHTS: MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to end the moratorium on the Glenwood Water system. Motion carried.

C. **2024 PREQUALIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to approve the addition of all of the firms listed and add them to the Professionals Services Consultants Roster for the 2024 period. Motion carried.

D. **CALL FOR BID DOCK CREW 2024: MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to approve the Call for Bid, Dock Crew 2024; with bids received until 2:00 p.m. February 8, 2024. Motion carried.

E. **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DELINQUENT PROCESS: MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to suspend the delinquent process and related fees and penalties for a billing cycle beginning immediately in response to severe weather conditions. Motion carried.

F. **RESOLUTION 1847 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY CONDITION/MAJOR DISASTER EXISTS DUE TO STORM DAMAGE: MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to adopt Resolution 1847. Motion carried.

G. **EXECUTIVE SESSION PER RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) TO CONSIDER ACQUISITION OF REAL-ESTATE** - Vice-President Gunkel called for an Executive Session at 3:00p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) noting that the session would last 30 minutes until 3:30p.m., for the purpose of evaluating the acquisition of real-estate. At 3:30p.m., Vice-President Gunkel advised we would be extending the executive session for an additional 15 minutes, until 3:45p.m. The session ended at 3:45p.m. No action was taken.

RCW 42.30.110 – Executive Session.

(1) Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed to prevent a governing body from holding an executive session during a regular or special meeting:

Recess - Commissioner Gunkel recessed the meeting at 3:45 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at which time staff will present the Prequalification of Contractors listing.

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024
2:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-President Dan G. Gunkel called the January 23, 2024 recessed meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. February 6, 2024 as announced.

H. PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS 2024 - **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to approve the addition of the contractors as presented to the Small and Large Works Rosters for the 2024 period. Motion carried.

Adjourned - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m. February 6, 2024.

/S/
Randy L. Knowles, President

/S/
Dan G. Gunkel, Vice President

/S/
Douglas B. Miller, Secretary

/s/
April Greenlaw, Administrative
Assistant

Date Approved: February 13, 2024