

**Skamania County Public Utility District #1**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Curt Esch at 9:00 a.m. at the PUD office in Carson, WA. The following persons were present: Commissioner Curt Esch; Commissioner Clyde Leach; Commissioner Dennis Gale; Manager, Bob Wittenberg; Auditor, Chris Iobst; Attorney, Ken Woodrich; Public Members, Betty Daubenspeck, Liz Green.

**MINUTES**

The Commissioner's reviewed the Minutes of the September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Meeting. Commissioner Leach made a motion to approve the Minutes as corrected. Commissioner Leach then withdrew his motion, electing to see corrected language before approving.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Change to the Health Care Plan-** The Board and Staff discussed the process of determining the eligibility of a Disabled Dependant, noting that PURMS would continue to make that determination based on the District's policy. Dick Rodruck of PURMS feels that the new language adopted by Board provides clear guidance to determine the eligibility of Disabled Dependents.
- **2011Budget, Second Draft Presentation-** Iobst presented the Second Draft of the 2011Budget. He reviewed a medical insurance analysis compiled by Accountant Salvie Stevens, noting the District will need to raise premiums to keep up with current costs.

Gale presented two alternative projections for Purchased Power costs, noting his objection to the calculation presented in the Draft Budget.

The Board discussed Billing and Collection expenses and the proposal to add a half time position in the office instead of a part time summer helper.

Public Member, Betty Daubenspeck stated her objection to adding a half time position in the front office, although she stated a summer helper for three months was justified.

Public Member, Liz Green stated her objection to any wage increases for Lines #44-50, which include Commissioners and management salaries and expenses.

Iobst noted that Outside Services was updated to include \$10K for estimated 2011 Management Consultant expenses. The Board agreed with the addition. Iobst will also move \$29K for the Cost of Service Study to Outside Services.

Commissioner Leach noted he did not see the District going forward in the direction he wanted with Strategic Planning and goal setting. Wittenberg noted the proposed Budget did not include dollars for mapping or automatic meter reading, and he expressed concerns for the District not keeping up with the technology and services of other utilities.

Commissioner Esch stated that he would vote against the Budget as presented with the added labor cost to the water systems.

The Meeting recessed for Lunch at 12:30 p.m., reconvening in Regular Session at 1:20 p.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Bad Debt Write Off**- Senior Accounting Clerk, Lisa Allen presented a list of customers with bad debt totaling \$2,274.59 to write off and send to collections. Commissioner Leach made a **motion** to approve the bad debt. Commissioner Gale **seconded**, and the motion was **carried unanimously**.

### **OLD BUSINESS (cont.)**

- **2011 Budget, Second Draft Presentation (cont.)** -

The Board and Staff continued discussing the proposed 2011 Budget, concentrating on the Underwood and Carson Water Systems.

Wittenberg noted that Carson had adopted a 10% rate increase effective December, 2010 and asked for Board input on how to include it in the 2011 Budget. He was asked to present proposals on how to structure the rate increase at the next Meeting.

Water Distribution Manager, Tom Vance discussed 2011 projects and his need for a full time water crew to complete system improvement projects.

Commissioner Gale noted he would be more in favor of a full time crew if the additional labor was used for capital improvement projects.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

- **Underwood Outage** – Wittenberg announced a planned outage on Saturday, October, 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 p.m., estimated for 7-10 hours into the morning of October 3<sup>rd</sup> for all customers served by the Underwood substation. The outage will allow for maintenance of the transformer.

**COMMISSIONERS’ REPORT**

- **Whistleblower Investigation-** Wittenberg noted the bill for the Whistleblower Investigation has not been received yet.
- **Transcribing of Minutes** – Wittenberg asked if he should seek options for transcribing the Minutes. Commissioner Esch did not feel it would be worth the expense to transcribe Minutes.
- **WAPUDA – Dues Committee Meeting** – Gale commented that the Dues Committee recalculated dues and the District’s share will increase from \$17,979 to \$20,454 under the new structure.
- **Connie Reservoir** –Wittenberg noted that Cascade Equipment had fulfilled all contractual requirements with the construction of the Connie Reservoir, and the District will release their retainage of \$18,518.48.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

The following vouchers were approved for payment by a **motion** made by Commissioner Gale.

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Electric System	45377-45443	\$ 182,640.82
Carson Water	5661-5665	\$ 2,077.51
Underwood Water	3372-3374	\$ 581.68

Commissioner Leach **seconded**, and the motion was **carried unanimously**.

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

---

**Curt C. Esch, President**

---

**Clyde D. Leach, Secretary**

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioner's Meeting will be:  
**Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.**