

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

November 1st, 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; Project Manager, Humaira Falkenberg; Accountant, Salvie Stevens; General Foreman, Gary Leonard; WO/HR Coordinator, Shonna Taylor; Head Accounting Clerk, Deborah Hinzman; Attorney, Ken Woodrich; Commissioner Candidate, Judith Lanz; Public Member, Rory Miller, Susan Krug, Betty Daubenspeck, Liz Green, Diane Green, Betty Smith and Gordon Carlson.

MINUTES

Commissioner Gale made a **motion** to approve Minutes of the October 18, 2010 Meeting. Commissioner Leach **seconded** the motion, and the motion was **approved** unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The revised 2011 Rebate for Persons of Seniority and/or with Disabilities for qualifying low-income households was presented for review. The household income level was increased by 20% and the maximum total rebate was increased from \$200 to \$240. Commissioner Leach made a **motion** to approve the 2011 Electric Rebate. Commissioner Gale **seconded** the motion, and the motion was **approved** unanimously.

Manager Wittenberg discussed the absence of the Auditor and the reassignment of workload amongst present staff. At the direction of the Board, Manager Wittenberg contacted Arrowhead Accounting and Rory Miller to discuss interim solutions to fill the gap created by the absence.

Wittenberg reported that Arrowhead Accounting was interested, but unavailable. Rory Miller is available for short term. Rory Miller attended the meeting to inform the Board of his background and proposal for Skamania PUD Interim Auditor.

Project Manager, Humaira Falkenberg did a power point presentation for the Boards' information and redistribution of responsibilities.

Public member, Betty Smith, attended the meeting to discuss an accident she had with her vehicle in the upper parking lot of the PUD and the denial from PUD insurance company. After discussion, Commissioner Esch and Leach suggested Betty Smith get an estimate of the damage to her vehicle for review by the Board at the November 15, 2010 meeting.

Break at 10:15 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Disbursal of Surplus CFL Light Bulbs** - Resolution #2349 was presented authorizing the manager to implement a program for redistribution of surplus customer-owned CFL light bulbs. This resolution authorizes the manager to establish a program in cooperation with the Skamania Branch Food Bank in Stevenson to distribute any surplus CFLs voluntarily returned to the District. After discussion Commissioner Gale made a **motion** to approve Resolution #2349 and the motion was **seconded** by Commissioner Leach and **approved unanimously**.
- **Insurance Claim** – Commissioner Leach expressed his desire to reimburse Betty Smith for damages to her vehicle. Commissioner Gale agreed.
- **Rate Increases** – Manager Wittenberg asked for direction from the Board on the structure of the rate increase on the Carson Water System and Electric System. Staff will advertise a public hearing in the newspaper on the rate increase for both systems to be held at the November 15th, 2010 meeting.
- **WPUDA Committee Delegates & Alternates**- After discussion it was decided by the Board and Staff the following would be delegates and alternates:

Government Affairs: Humaira Falkenberg, Bob Wittenberg, Alternate
Manager’s Section: Bob Wittenberg, Humaira Falkenberg, Alternate
Energy Committee: Dennis Gale, Bob Wittenberg, Alternate
Water Committee: Humaira Falkenberg, Clyde Leach, Alternate
- **Property Tax Resolution**- Manager Wittenberg reported that the Tax Resolution No. 2350 would be presented at the November 15, 2010 meeting. The deadline to pass this resolution is November 30, 2010.

Public Member, Susan Krug commented that it would be beneficial to have the meeting minutes on the PUD website. It was noted by Shonna Taylor that this could be done.

INVESTMENTS

No investments.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Manager Wittenberg reported that he attended the Eastside – Westside Supervisors’ Meeting at Ocean Shores. Of important discussion at the meeting was fire retardant clothing (FR) for lineman. Wittenberg commented that FR clothing was still not mandatory under State of Washington law. Wittenberg commented that FR clothing is standard practice at many of the utilities and that Skamania PUD should purchase FR clothing for our lineman. General Foreman, Gary Leonard reported that he has had a flash burn. Commissioner Esch expressed concern for the cost of FR clothing and stated it was not the law yet. Commissioner Leach does not feel the risk is worth taking any chances. Public member Betty Daubenspeck felt that where employee safety is concerned, the expense should not matter. Manager Wittenberg reported that there can be balance with the FR clothing, some utilities are extreme and felt that Skamania PUD could take common sense steps. Commissioner Esch commented that research needs to be done on this subject.

Manager Wittenberg also reported the State Supreme Court reversed a lower court ruling and upheld all aspects of the Municipal Water Law.

AUDITOR’S REPORT

None.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

None.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Gale discussed the annual PURMS meeting.

Commissioner Leach reported on the Energy Northwest Member Forum he recently attended.

Commissioner Leach made a **motion** to reimburse Rory K. Miller for \$260 for 520 miles at the IRS rate for mileage to/from Chehalis and Carson on October 27, 2010 and November 1, 2010 to attend the Board of Commissioners’ Meetings. This motion was **seconded** by Commissioner Gale and **carried unanimously**.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

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

Voucher	Number	Amount
Electric System	45556-45603	\$ 172,830.10
Carson Water	5681-5685	\$ 1,798.36
Underwood Water	3384-3386	\$ 1,339.71

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

The Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Entered into Executive Session to discuss litigation with legal counsel until 2:00 p.m.

Executive Session extended 30 minutes.

2:30 p.m. Executive Session extended 10 minutes.

Meeting reconvened at 2:45 p.m. for workshop on discussion regarding a possible outside interim auditor. No decision was made.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Curt C. Esch, President

Clyde D. Leach, Secretary

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioner’s Meeting will be:
Monday, November 15th, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.