

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

June 15, 2015

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 Liz Green; Commissioner Curt Esch; Commissioner Dennis Gale; General Manager Brent Bischoff; Auditor Jasen McEathron; and Attorney Ken Woodrich.

MINUTES:

- Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the June 1, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Auditor McEathron presented to the Board an email from Amy Weissfeld submitted for public comment in support of a community solar project.
- Community Solar – Dan Gunderson, Paul Spencer, and Dan Smith discussed with the Board an idea for a community solar project. After discussion, it was recommended a business plan be prepared by the developers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Underwood Substation Construction Contract** – Manager Bischoff presented the bid award and contract with Wilson Construction. David Searls and Josh Doering, IEC Corporation discussed the project with the Board. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to award the project to low bidder Wilson Construction, amending the contract on page 9 replacing “Owner” with “District”, and authorizing Manager Bischoff to sign the contract in the amount of \$1,071,609.29. **Motion passed unanimously.**

There was an eight minute break at 9:52 a.m.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for a duration of 30 minutes. Commissioner Green, Commissioner Gale, Manager Bischoff, Auditor McEathron, Attorney Woodrich, and Attorney Ramsey Ramerman via phone were in attendance. Commissioner Esch recused himself from the Executive Session. Executive Session was extended 15 minutes. Executive Session ended at 10:45 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:45 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS cont.:

- **Engineering Services PSC** – Manager Bischoff presented a contract with Murray Smith & Associates for Board ratification in the amount of \$3,000.00 for general engineering services. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to ratify the contract in the amount of \$3,000.00. **Motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Legal Defense Costs** – Auditor McEathron presented a summary of the legal costs to date for defense in Esch vs. Skamania County PUD and Commissioner Clyde Leach. The Board directed staff to strike language from the summary and requested to see the latest bill from Attorney Wolfe.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Bischoff reported on the following items:

- URD cable replacement progress to date this year.
- Gave a brief summary of findings in the engineering study by IEC Corporation following installation of the 750kVA transformer on the Washougal River feeder out of Cape Horn substation.
- His planned attendance at the core and coil inspection of the new Underwood substation transformer.
- Connection of the 3rd net metered residential solar installation on the system and concern expressed by the customer's contractor of costs charged by the PUD.
- Progress toward acquiring a lease for land to construct the new reservoir in Carson.
- Anchor reinforcement on the Carson raw water main is now scheduled for Oct.

OLD BUSINESS cont.:

- **Legal Defense Costs** – Auditor McEathron provided the Board the latest bill from Attorney Wolfe. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to increase the budget \$5,000 for former Commissioner Clyde Leach's legal defense in Esch vs. Skamania County PUD and Commissioner Clyde Leach for a total authorized budget of \$42,200. **Motion passed 2-0, Commissioner Esch abstained from voting.**

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

- **2015 Bond Issue** – Auditor McEathron presented an updated preliminary schedule of events for the upcoming bond issue.
- **1st Quarter 2015 Financial Reports** – Auditor McEathron presented the financial reports for the first quarter of 2015.
- **Bad Debts** – Auditor McEathron presented bad debts in the amount of \$4,903.56. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve bad debts in the amount of \$4,903.56. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Energy Efficiency Update** – Auditor McEathron presented a memo from Efficiency Services Group providing a status of the energy conservation program.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:

- Commissioner Gale reported on his recent attendance of the PURMS Board Meeting.

CALENDAR:

- PPC Meeting July 2, 2015
- WPUDA Meetings July 15-17, 2015
- Energy NW Board Meeting July 22, 2015

There was a 60 minute break for lunch at 12:30 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:30 p.m.

VOUCHER APPROVAL:

After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and RCW 42.24.090. **Motion passed 3-0, except Commissioner Esch abstained from voting on voucher #52095 to Attorney Brian Wolfe in the amount of \$4,113.75 which was approved 2-0.**

Voucher	Number	Amount
Electric System	52035-52095	\$248,399.97
Carson Water	6496-6503	\$8,388.95
Underwood Water	3804-3811	\$3,573.39

AUDITOR’S EVALUATION

The Board entered into Executive Session at 1:45 p.m. to discuss Employee Performance per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for a duration of 30 minutes. Commissioner Esch, Commissioner Green, Commissioner Gale, Manager Bischoff, and Auditor McEathron were in attendance. Executive Session was extended 70 minutes and ended at 3:25 p.m.

After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to increase Auditor McEathron’s salary 2% effective July 1, 2015. **Motion passed unanimously.** Manager Bischoff is to present a resolution ratifying the salary adjustment at the next board meeting on July 6th.

The Board Workshop on Strategic Planning was postponed until July 20, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Curt Esch, President

Liz Green, Secretary

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioners’ Meeting will be
Monday, July 6, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.