

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

May 18, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Curt Esch at 9:02 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; Project Coordinator Melanie Sharp; and Attorney Ken Woodrich.

MINUTES:

- After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the May 4, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Leroy Goodrich - Water Connect** – Manager Bischoff introduced Leroy Goodrich who is planning to subdivide in Carson. Mr. Goodrich intends to install a second meter and waterline to the newly divided property and requested a policy variance for the connection fee because water usage to the properties will not change. The Commissioners denied the policy variance and directed staff to apply all required connection fees before providing the proof of water availability letter.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Legal Defense Costs – Request for Defense Funding** – Auditor McEathron reported legal defense costs in the Esch vs. PUD No. 1 of Skamania County, et. al. as of May 13, 2015 are \$147,310.46. The Commissioners discussed a request from Attorney Wolfe for an additional \$2,200 to represent former commissioner Clyde Leach at the May 20, 2015 mediation.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Potential Litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for a duration of 60 minutes. Commissioner Green, Commissioner Gale, Auditor McEathron, Manager Bischoff, Attorney Woodrich, and Attorney Rammerman via phone were in attendance. Commissioner Esch recused himself from the Executive Session. Executive Session was extended 45 Minutes. Executive Session ended at 11:45 a.m.

There was a five minute break at 11:45 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:50 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- **Legal Defense Costs – Request for Defense Funding- Continued** – After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to authorize an additional \$2,200 for Attorney Wolf to represent former commissioner Clyde Leach at the mediation with a total amount not to exceed \$37,200. **Commissioner Esch abstained from the vote. Motion passed with two votes in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution No. 2493 – Privilege Tax 2015** - Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2493. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2493 authorizing the transfer of \$212,539.43 from the Privilege Tax Fund to the Electric General Fund. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Resolution No. 2494 – Electric Construction Fund Transfer** - Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2494. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2494 transferring \$321,814.42 from the Electric Construction Fund to the Electric General Fund. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Resolution No. 2495 – Carson Water Construction Fund Transfer** - Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2495. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2495 transferring \$18,557.42 from the Carson Water Construction Fund to the Carson Water General Fund. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Resolution No. 2496 – Underwood Water Construction Fund Transfer** - Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2496. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2496 transferring \$3,509.43 from the Underwood Water Construction Fund to the Underwood Water General Fund. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Resolution No. 2497 – Underwood Sub Electric Construction Fund Transfer** - Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2497. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2497 transferring \$181,977.36 from the Electric Construction Fund to the Electric General Fund. **Motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Customer Service Workstation Proposal** – Auditor McEathron presented a request for additional funding to purchase the new ergonomic Customer Service Department workstations. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to increase the budget for office furniture by \$6,630. **Motion passed unanimously.**

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Manager Bischoff reported on the following items:

- Lessons learned from the Carson water outage
- April outage report
- Industrial reservoir painting bid award
- Receipt of USFS Special Use Permit for the Bear Creek Diversion Dam
- Bergen Road power outage
- Underwood substation construction bids

- WPUDA Manager’s meeting update
- Strategic plan workshop

AUDITOR’S REPORT:

- **Bad Debts** – Auditor McEathron presented bad debts in the amount of \$1,081.46. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve bad debts in the amount of \$1,081.46. **Motion passed unanimously.**

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:

- None.

CALENDAR:

- Special Meeting – Mediation/Executive Session May 20, 2015
- Special Meeting – Strategic Planning Workshop May 22, 2015
- PPC Meeting June 4, 2015
- PURMS Board Meeting June 4, 2015
- WPUDA Meetings - July 15-17, 2015

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 unanimously.**

Voucher	Number	Amount
Electric System	51923-51982	\$389,704.71
Carson Water	6479-6487	\$3,483.55
Underwood Water	3795-3800	\$1,320.11

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Sherry Esch commented on communication during emergencies. She also inquired about the status of providing information regarding nuclear power.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Curt Esch, President

Liz Green, Secretary

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioners’ Meeting will be
Monday, June 1, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.