

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

March 16, 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; Project Coordinator Melanie Sharp; and Attorney Ken Woodrich.

MINUTES:

- Auditor McEathron noted that the March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes need to be corrected to list the February 10 and February 17 meeting minutes as the year 2015 instead of 2014. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes as corrected. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Sherry Esch submitted five documents into the official record and requested more information regarding each document. Topics included the status of a laptop, access to the PUD network by former employees, and use of an external hard drive.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Legal Defense Costs** – Auditor McEathron reported that defense counsel costs as of March 11, 2015 was \$120,348.76. The Commissioners decided to discuss the issue further in executive session.
- **Resolution No. 2484 – Electric Rates** – Manager Bischoff presented Resolution No. 2484 establishing electric rates for 2015-2018. Commissioners discussed the rate options presented at the Rate Hearings and directed staff to use Option 2 for residential, Option 1 for large industrial, and Option 1 for large commercial/small industrial rates. The Commissioners requested that the 2015 rate increase become effective for all billing statements issued after May 1, 2015. The resolution will be presented at the April 6th meeting for approval.
- **Resolution No. 2488 – New Large Load & Cannabis Policy** – Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2488 establishing a New Large Load and Cannabis Policy. Attorney Woodrich suggested adding a severability clause to the resolution. The Commissioners requested that the two new policies and rate schedules become effective for all billing statements issued after May 1, 2015. The resolution will be presented at the April 6th meeting for approval.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:50 a.m. to discuss Potential Litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for a duration of 40 minutes. Commissioner Green, Commissioner Gale, Commissioner Esch, Auditor McEathron, Manager Bischoff, Attorney Woodrich, and Attorney Rammerman via phone were in attendance. Commissioner Esch recused himself from the Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. and rejoined the Executive Session at 11:15 a.m. Executive Session was extended 45 Minutes. Executive Session ended at 11:30 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- **Resolution No. 2486 – Carson Water Rates** – Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2486 establishing Carson Water System rate increases for the years 2015-2018. Commissioners discussed the rate options presented at the Carson Water Rate Hearings and directed staff to use Option 3, with the 2015 rate increases effective for all billing statements issued after May 1, 2015. The resolution will be presented at the April 6th meeting for approval.
- **Resolution No. 2487 – Underwood Water Rates** – Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2487 establishing Underwood Water System rate increases for the years 2015-2018. Commissioners discussed the rate options presented at the Underwood Water Rate Hearings and directed staff to use Option 2, with the 2015 rate increases effective for all billing statements issued after May 1, 2015. The resolution will be presented at the April 6th meeting for approval.
- **Resolution No. 2490 – Surplus Transformer** – Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2490 authorizing the disposal of the Cape Horn Substation spare transformer. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2490 to surplus and sell the spare Cape Horn Substation transformer to the City of Cascade Locks for an estimated value of \$30,000. **Motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution No. 2489 – Meeting Room Policy** - Manager Bischoff presented Resolution No. 2489 revising the meeting room public use policy. Resolution No. 2489 replaces the previous Community Room Policy in Resolution No. 2245. The Commissioners requested that Resolution No. 2489 be corrected to replace all references of Community Room with Meeting Room. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2489 as corrected. **Motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS CONT'D:

- **Legal Defense Costs Cont'd** – After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to authorize Attorney Woodrich to submit a motion for judgment regarding whether Commissioner Leach's actions fall under the legal description of good faith. **Motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Bischoff reported on the following items:

- February outage report
- Safety update

- Wind River Business Park and management of their water system
- Surplus of Underwood substation transformer and regulator to Klickitat PUD
- National Scenic Area permit for an new access road to the Underwood substation
- National Scenic Area permit for the new Carson reservoir
- Carson test well Watershed Planning Implementation & Flow Achievement Grant (PIFA)

AUDITOR’S REPORT:

- **HR/Work Order Specialist** - Auditor McEathron reported on the status of the HR/Work Order Specialist job opening.
- **Bad Debts** – Auditor McEathron presented bad debts in the amount of \$941.02. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve bad debts in the amount of \$941.02. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Billing Error** – Auditor McEathron reported on the status of the billing error associated with Skamania County’s electric accounts.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:

- None.

CALENDAR:

- WPUDA Meetings - March 18-20, 2015
- WPAG Meeting March 24, 2015
- Energy NW Board Meeting March 24-26, 2015
- WPUDA Water Committee March 26, 2015
- PPC Meeting April 2, 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	51676-51740	\$273,911.68
Carson Water	6455-6458	\$322.31
Underwood Water	3781-3784	\$574.16

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Betty Daubenspeck commented on the legal defense fees and attendance of Commissioners at the legal proceedings.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Curt Esch, President

Liz Green, Secretary

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