

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

November 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:

- The Commissioners reviewed the November 2, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the November 2, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2016 Skamania County EDC Agreement – Pat Albaugh, Executive Director** – Pat Albaugh, EDC Executive Director, presented an agreement to provide economic development services to the PUD in 2016. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to authorize Manager Bischoff to sign the contract with Skamania County EDC in the amount of \$5,000. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Resolution No. 2521 – 2016 Property Taxes**– Auditor McEathron presented Resolution No. 2521 authorizing an increase in the 2016 regular property tax levy to \$513,647.54, which is an increase of \$1,286.03 and .251% over the amount levied for collection in 2015, plus an increase of \$3,639.97 resulting from the addition of new construction, and any increase in the value of state assessed property. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2521 authorizing the regular property tax levy for 2016. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

- **Attorney Representation** - The Commissioners discussed evaluating Attorney Woodrich’s performance as PUD legal counsel in open session. Commissioner Gale submitted written statement into the meeting record objecting to the evaluation of Attorney Woodrich’s performance at this time.

There was a 10-minute break at 9:50 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m.

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, and 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.

Commissioner Gale made a **motion** to authorize the funding of an additional \$5000 for Dr. Leach's defense to prepare a brief for the appeal to the dismissal of the lawsuit. Commissioner Esch discussed going to the courts and asking them if Dr. Leach erred in his process. **The motion died for lack of a second.**

Commissioner Green made a **motion** to approve 2 hours of attorney fees at \$350 per hour for a total of \$700 for Dr. Leach's defense. **The motion died for lack of a second.**

Commissioner Gale made a **motion** to approve 4 hours of attorney fees at \$350 per hour for a total of \$1,400 for Dr. Leach's defense. **The motion died for lack of a second.**

Commissioner Esch stepped down to make a **motion** and Commissioner Gale **seconded** to authorize Attorney Menke two hours of work to review the existing union contract prior to union negotiations. **Motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Electric & Water Rate Increase Scenarios** – Auditor McEathron discussed rate structure scenarios to implement rate increases previously approved by the Board in Resolutions 2484, 2486 and 2487 for the Electric System, Carson Water System and Underwood Water System respectively.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT CONTINUED:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:30 a.m. to discuss litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for a duration of 5 minutes. Commissioner Esch recused himself from the Executive Session. Executive Session was extended 5 minutes. Executive session ended at 11:40 a.m.

Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to authorize the funding of 2 hours of attorney fees at \$350 per hour for a total of \$700 for Dr. Leech's defense. **The motion passed with two votes for, and one abstention (Commissioner Esch).**

DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED:

- **Electric & Water Rate Increase Scenarios Continued** – Auditor McEathron continued discussions of the rate scenarios with the Board. Staff will present at the next meeting resolutions updating electric and water rate schedules based upon input from the Board.

There was a 10-minute break at 1:00 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Bischoff reported on the following items:

- October 2015 outage report

- Underwood Substation project update including installation of the control building and anticipated outage
- Risk assessment of the Electric System
- BPA Focus 2028 meeting
- Raw water transmission main footing reinforcement project
- Carson Reservoir interior painting warranty work
- Staff efforts to respond to increased agricultural irrigation water demand in the Underwood water system

AUDITOR’S REPORT:

- **Bad Debts** - Auditor McEathron presented bad debts in the amount of \$1,099.61. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the bad debts in the amount of \$1,099.61. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **BPA Power Costs** – Auditor McEathron presented BPA power costs for year to date.
- **Healthcare Premiums** – Auditor McEathron presented estimated healthcare premium increases for 2016. A resolution updating healthcare premium rates effective January 1, 2016 will be presented at the next meeting.
- **WA State DOR Tax of BPA Conservation Reimbursements** - Auditor McEathron discussed that DOR may tax BPA conservation reimbursements.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:

- None.

CALENDAR:

- WPUA Meetings November 18-20, 2015
- WPUA Annual Meeting December 2-4, 2015
- PPC Meeting December 10, 2015
- WPAG Meeting December 18, 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	52692-52758	\$483,058.88
Carson Water	6569-6574	\$1,732.21
Underwood Water	3842	\$337.75

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Diane Green commented on the availability of email lists for the Mill A community. Ms. Green also objected to the defense attorney fees associated with the Esch lawsuit.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Curt Esch, President

Liz Green, Secretary

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be
Monday, December 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.