

**Skamania County Public Utility District #1**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners & Underwood Water System Rate Hearing**

October 17th, 2011

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dennis Gale at 9:00 a.m. at the PUD office in Carson, WA. The following persons were present: Commissioner Clyde Leach; Commissioner Curt Esch; Commissioner Dennis Gale; Interim Manager, Robert Gentry; Auditor, Jasen McEathron; Attorney, Ken Woodrich; Work Order Specialist/HR Coordinator, Shonna Taylor.

Commissioner Gale had an addition to the Agenda, adding Attorney Report.

**MINUTES:**

- Commissioner Esch made a **motion** to approve the October 3, 2011 Board of Commissions' regular meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Leach **seconded** the motion and the minutes were **approved unanimously**.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Mary Repar – Commented on the minutes, City of Stevenson Comprehensive Plan, conservation, and climate change.
- Diane Green – Commented on water conservation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Water Leak Detection Solicitations** –Manager Gentry reported that four contractors had been contacted for quotes on leak detection services and Leak Detectives will be providing this service. A service contract will be presented to the Board for approval.
- **Fire Hydrant Use Fees** – Recently a contractor was granted permission to use a fire hydrant to fill a truck tanker and billed for the estimated usage. This incident raised questions how to regulate the control of water usage from fire hydrants on both the Carson and Underwood water service areas. Manager Gentry presented the Board with options for control of fire hydrants such as purchasing fire hydrant meters and developing a rate schedule to regulate consumption and accuracy for billing. Another option would be to ban all use of fire hydrants except for emergency and maintenance by the fire districts and PUD. Commissioner Leach suggested a procedure to go through the office for meter and permit to use hydrant. Attorney Woodrich advised that rate setting for such use lies with the Commission. Commissioner Esch does not think treated water needs to be used and concerned about water right issues. Commissioner Gale spoke about other alternatives outside of the District's water systems. After discussion, Commissioner Esch made a **motion** to ban all water from fire hydrants that is unauthorized, except for emergency. Commissioner Leach **seconded** the motion and the motion was **approved unanimously**.

Manager Gentry discussed ban for certain uses except for fire emergency and will come back to Commission with exceptions.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **Governance Policy** – Manager Gentry would like to hold workshops to complete the governance policy. The first session would be based on what the Commission sees as a governance policy then have subsequent meetings. After discussion it was decided that the schedule would be looked at the next meeting. Commissioner Esch explained that he would not be interested in the old document and felt there were more pressing issues. Commissioner Leach would like to see the new draft that Manager Gentry has prepared and further explained that the policy is a document for the Board and Manager to work together under the same set of rules.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Manager Gentry presented the September 2011 Outage Report to the Commission.

Commissioner Esch inquired about the Highway14/Sawnet project. Manager Gentry explained some information has been received, but needs more before bringing forward. Commissioner Esch presented a letter to staff from Robert L. Hanny, IT Manager from Grays Harbor PUD in opposition of NoaNet.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT:** None.

## **ATTORNEY REPORT:**

The Commission entered into **Executive Session** at 10:30 a.m. for 20 minutes to discuss potential litigation (RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)).

Executive Session was extended for 10 minutes.

There was no action taken in Executive Session.

The regular meeting reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Commissioner Gale attended the education and roundtable committee meeting and committee is looking for topics to discuss at the December 2011 Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meeting.

Commissioner Esch expressed his concern about WPUDA's stability with other utilities. Discussion was held about Grays Harbor possibly pulling out.

The upcoming important calendar dates were reviewed. The PPC meeting will be held November 3, 2011 and a correction on the PURMS Annual Meeting is November 10, 2011.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Esch made a **motion** to approve the vouchers.

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Electric System	46897-46959	\$ 222,404.67
Carson Water	5834-5839	\$ 5,905.19
Underwood Water	3462-3464	\$ 726.14

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

The Meeting recessed at 11:20 a.m. to be continued at the Underwood Community Center at 6:30 p.m. for the Underwood Water Public Rate Hearing.

Commissioner Gale opened the Underwood Water Public Rate Hearing at 6:30 p.m. Tom Vance, Water Distribution Manager, joined the meeting.

Manager Gentry presented a memorandum for the public hearing for the Commission and public showing system capital improvements planned for the 2012 Plan and the estimated costs for these projects and Underwood Water System rate scenarios. The memorandum also listed the completed projects of the last 6 year plan along with additional improvements made to the system.

Public comment regarding the system and proposed rates were made by Bill Fowlie, Bill Nicks, Mike Eastwick, Loreley Drach, Dale Glasgow and Liz Green.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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**Dennis Gale, President**

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**Curt Esch, Secretary**

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioner's Meeting will be:  
**Monday, November 7th, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.**