

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

February 8, 2022

1. Call to Order | Pledge of Allegiance

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Commissioner Christine Grant. Said meeting was open to the public and notice thereof had been given as required by law. Those present via Zoom teleconference included Commissioner Mike Murphy, Commissioner Christine Grant, Commissioner Atul Deshmane, and Legal Counsel Peter Ruffatto. Staff attending via Zoom teleconference: Chris Heimgartner, General Manager; Steve Jilk, In-House Consultant; Ann Grimm, Executive Assistant; Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Brian Walters, Assistant General Manager; Annette Smith, Director of Finance; Duane Holden, Director of Utility Operations; Paul Siegmund, Manager of Automation and Technology; Aaron Peterson, IT/SCADA Technician; Mike Macomber, IT/SCADA Technician; Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager; Kurt Wank, Project Manager; Devin Crabtree, Chief Water Operator; Jon Littlefield, Electric System Supervisor; and Traci Irvine, Accountant I.

Public attending via teleconference:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Dave Olson, CMI | Jack Wellman, Puget Sound Energy | Billy Tackitt, AT & T |
| Scott Wallace, Citizen | Max & Carole Perry, Citizens | Tristan Smith, Citizen |
| Daniel Kirkpatrick, Citizen | Mike Kaufman, Citizen | Lauren Turner, P66 |
| Rick Maricle, Citizen | Carryn Vande Griend, Puget Sound Energy | |

2. Approval of Agenda

No changes made.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 25, 2022, as amended; and
- b. Approval of the Claims of February 8, 2022:

| <u>VENDOR NAME</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|---|---------------|
| APPLIED DIGITAL IMAGING | 50.59 |
| BHAM WHATCOM CHAMBER OF COMM & INDUSTRY | 330.00 |
| CDW/COMPUTER DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE | 3,846.61 |
| CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY | 182.79 |
| CONNER, ERIC | 156.92 |
| CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC. | 3,819.26 |
| FASTENAL | 71.74 |
| FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE | 27.16 |
| GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC | 84.71 |
| HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST | 150.00 |
| HOMEWARD DESIGNS, LLC | 234.50 |
| KCDA PURCHASING COOPERATIVE | 42.10 |
| LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTER | 21.76 |
| NOANET | 410.00 |
| NORTHWEST FIBER DBA ZIPLY FIBER | 1,372.27 |
| NORTHWEST MOWING & GARDENING | 2,508.51 |
| NP INFORMATION SYSTEMS (3-D CORP) | 261.12 |
| P&P EXCAVATING, LLC | 74,894.84 |
| PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO | 334.72 |
| POWELL ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, INC. | 146,129.23 |
| PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC | 6,985.48 |
| REGENCE BLUE SHIELD | 45,104.78 |
| REISNER DISTRIBUTION, INC | 1,181.59 |
| RICOH USA | 249.82 |
| SHRED-IT USA | 44.22 |
| SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY | 554.28 |
| TEAMSTER LOCAL #231 | 567.00 |
| TIGER CONSTRUCTION | 19,539.24 |
| ULINE, INC. | 1,347.85 |
| UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY | 501.00 |
| VALVOLINE | 64.73 |
| VERIZON WIRELESS | 2,139.13 |
| WA PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION | 15,540.00 |
| WA ST DEPT TRANSP-NW REGION | 1,489.93 |
| WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE | 3,075.80 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE | 12,213.95 |
| WHATCOM JANITORIAL | 1,325.00 |
| WILSON ENGINEERING, LLC | 1,117.15 |
| ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION | 277.44 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$348,247.22 |

ACTION: Commissioner Murphy motioned to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022, AS AMENDED. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Introduction of Chris Heimgartner, New General Manager

Grant welcomed Heimgartner, the PUD’s new General Manager who began on February 1, 2022. Heimgartner has enjoyed a warm welcome from staff, members of the community and WPUA. Joining Whatcom PUD has fulfilled two opportunities for him, to move back to the Northwest and be close to family and to contribute his prior experience and skills to help shape the District’s future.

5. Public Comment

Billy Tackitt, AT & T/FirstNet – asked to be placed on a future agenda to see how FirstNet can bring critical communications to first responders and PUDs.

Rick Maricle, unable to attend the January 22 meeting, wanted to wish Steve Jilk the very best in his retirement and future endeavors. His second comment regarded the Snake River Dams discussion/comment made by Deshmane on January 25.

Tristan Smith welcomed the new General Manager. He is a local citizen who is concerned about climate change and sustainability, and believes there are many things that individuals can do at the household level, neighborhood to local level, and federal level to harness these topics.

Daniel Kirkpatrick, Educational Design Associates – Congratulated Jilk for his service. He is a citizen who is interested in energy, climate, and broadband issues. Kirkpatrick said the PUD has the potential for growth in renewable energy, increased broadband services and that the public is watching, interested and excited about the PUD moving into the future.

Mike Kaufman introduced himself as one of the authors/overseers of the *Utility Chapter* of the *Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan* developed several years ago. He is interested in the County’s Franchise Agreements and suggested the PUD should form a committee with the County and take charge of all Franchise Agreements. Kaufman’s internet service dropped off and the Commission encouraged him to send an email with his comments.

6. Old Business

a. Broadband Program Update

EntriKin briefed Commissioners there are bills in the Legislature moving forward, SB5715 concerning minimum transmission speed set at 100 megabits per second download, and 20 megabits per second upload; SHB 1673 concerning broadband infrastructure grants and loans made by the Public Works Board, it includes a pre-application process for resolving issues between applicants and existing internet service providers. Technical assistance webinars for the five major federal funding sources are coming soon, EntriKin plans to attend. The Port has received over \$10 million in grants/loans for building infrastructure, Port/PUD staff is working on an upcoming press release, highlighting project areas and accomplishments thus far.

b. Approve Resolution No. 815 – Adopt Final Drinking Water System Plan Update

The District has received a letter of confirmation of approval of the *Drinking Water System Plan Final Update* and the next step Commission adoption. Jilk thanked Dave Olson, Curt Schoenfelder of Wilson Engineering, PUD staff and water rights legal counsel who worked diligently to get the plan updated. Lastly, the Plan will be forwarded to Whatcom County government to reflect receipt of the final, approved document and the service area map.

ACTION: Commissioner Murphy motioned to APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 815 ADOPTING THE DISTRICT’S FINAL COMPREHENSIVE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. New Business

a) Approve Professional Consulting Services Agreement with Eagle Eye Aerial

Eagle Eye Aerial Solutions’ capabilities consist of aerial services, utilizing a Drone platform for aerial inspection of facilities utilizing cameras for real-time observations, photography, and thermography. Use of drone technology has greatly enhance the District’s ability to assess the condition of both electric transmission lines, substations and water facilities. The agreement has no fiscal impact to the District’s 2022 Budget. Work Orders associated with the Agreement will each have a specific cost not to exceed budget amount.

ACTION: Commissioner Deshmane motioned to APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EAGLE-EYE AERIAL SOLUTIONS FOR AERIAL SERVICES RELATED TO FIELD SURVEYS OF DISTRICT ELECTRIC AND WATER SYSTEM FACILITIES, AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT. Commissioner Murphy second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. General Manager’s Report

Heimgartner has begun to meet with each of the Commissioners and legal staff, including every employee at the District. He reported it has been a good first week and is excited to be at Whatcom PUD.

9. Commissioner Reports

Murphy – Attended the Legislature Update from WPUDA – there is a lot going on. He is working on water issues, visiting different people throughout the county following up on such issues, and looks forward to meeting one-on-one with Heimgartner. Murphy will also attend the February WPUDA Committee Meetings.

Deshmane – Attended Ecology’s webinar on Adjudication; attended the City of Bellingham Broadband Advisory Group on Feb. 1, and plans to attend the February WPUDA Committee Meetings.

Grant – Reported on a telephone conversation with Nicolas Garcia (WPUDA) regarding demand response. Met with Heimgartner and Jilk last week and with Entrikin on broadband. She will attend the Port/PUD Broadband Steering Committee meeting next week and will also attend the February WPUDA Committee Meetings. She will also meet with Heimgartner after today’s meeting to review his presentation for an upcoming Speaker Series Event at WWU’s Energy Institute (Feb. 22).

10. Public Comment

None made.

11. Executive Session

Commission President Grant requested an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – potential litigation. The estimated time for Executive Session was twenty minutes. The Commission President indicated no action is anticipated to be taken after the adjournment of Executive Session. The Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 10:00 a.m.

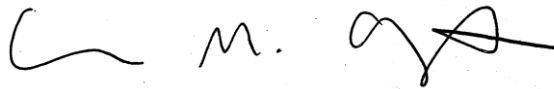
- The Commission held Executive Session on a separate Zoom webinar platform for privacy, security matters and Open Public Meeting Act requirements.
- At 10:20 a.m. Executive Session was extended 10 minutes.

Executive Session Adjourn

There being no further business for Executive Session, the Commission rejoined the Regular Commission Meeting webinar platform at 10:29 a.m.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business for the meeting, Commissioner Grant adjourned the regular meeting at 10:30 a.m.



Christine Grant, President/Commissioner



Atul Deshmane, Vice President/Commissioner



Mike Murphy, Secretary/Commissioner

Commission Clerk Note: Video recordings of the Whatcom PUD Commission Meetings are available online at the following link on the PUD’s Website: <https://www.pudwhatcom.org/the-commission/2022-agendas-packets-meeting-minutes-recordings/>