

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

August 22, 2023

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 8:17 a.m. by Commissioner Atul Deshmane. Said meeting was open to the public and notice thereof had been given as required by law. Those present included: Commissioner Atul Deshmane, Commissioner Christine Grant; Commissioner Jaime Arnett, and Legal Counsel Jon Sitkin. Staff: Chris Heimgartner, General Manager; Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager; Ann Grimm, Executive Assistant; Annette Smith, Director of Finance; Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Aaron Peterson, IT/SCADA Technician; Mike Macomber, IT/SCADA Technician; Garrett Love-Smith, Project Manager; Jon Littlefield, Electric System Supervisor; and Kurt Wank, Director of Utility Operations.

Public attending:

Bob Shuetz, Energy Northwest
Rick Maricle, Citizen
Robin Dexter, Citizen
Brian Heinrich, PSE

2. Approval of Agenda

Heimgartner has an update to provide. An additional item under New Business will be added.

ACTION: Commissioner Arnett made the motion to APPROVE THE AGENDA OF AUGUST 22, 2023 AS AMENDED. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Claims of August 22, 2023:

VENDOR	AMOUNT
APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC	15.70
INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC	65.34
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION	560,740.00
CELTIC CLEANER, INC.	1,195.00
COMCAST	191.61
COMCAST - NWRC	300.00
CRABTREE, DEVIN	239.99
CULLIGAN NORTHWEST	61.27
EDGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	31.00
EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC.	27.00
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	43.48
GRAYBAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC	299.58
GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC	228.06
HARDWARE SALES, INC .	58.70
HDR ENGINEERING, INC.	6,573.30
HOLLAND & HART LLP	4,359.00
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	21,442.92
IVOXY CONSULTING LLC	5,021.27
MANAGEMENT SERVICES NW	689.61
MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC	12,300.00
MILLS ELECTRIC	34,074.81
NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY	2,169.85
OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY	1,381.76
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	37,731.56
PAYLOCITY	183.16
PAYROLL	229,082.78
PITNEY BOWES RESERVE ACCOUNT	500.00
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	987.17
PORTAL WAY FARM & GARDEN	25.00
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	159.43
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	524.00
STAR RENTALS	1,705.78
TUPPER MACK WELLS PLLC	7,301.00
VALVOLINE	120.18
WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES	3,438.25
WA ST DEPT OF ECOLOGY-CASHIERING	7,400.00
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - EXCISE TAX	76,197.21
<u>WESTERN CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS</u>	<u>8,778.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,025,642.77

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE CLAIMS OF AUGUST 22, 2023. Commissioner Arnett second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment – None made.

5. Energy Northwest Presentation

Bob Schuetz, CEO of Energy Northwest updated Commissioners on Energy Northwest’s activities, interests, services they can provide to member utilities, collaboration opportunities, and information about their plans for advance and small modular reactors for firm, clean power generation for the future.

ACTION: No action taken, information only.

6. New Business

a) Call for Special Meeting – Rates Workshop

The workshop will include a presentation and discussion regarding utility rate structure. This is an in-person meeting only.

ACTION: Commissioner Arnett made the motion to CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING/COMMISSION WORKSHOP ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, FROM 3:00 PM TO 4:30 PM, LOCATED AT THE DISTRICT’S ADMINISTRATION OFFICE AT 1705 TRIGG ROAD, FERNDALE, WA. Commissioner Grant second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b) General Manager Update

A proposal for a feasibility study regarding an emergency intertie may be requested from a local water district that is running low on water. More information will be presented at the September 12 meeting. Arnett inquired about a call she received from a private well owner experiencing low water who is looking for assistance.

7. Commissioner Reports

Deshmane:

- Attending the Energy Northwest dinner on August 23;
- Plans to attend the Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) committee meetings and Water Workshop next month in-person;
- Plans to attend the Public Power Council Meetings in Portland, in-person.

Arnett:

- Toured yesterday with the Whatcom Conservation District on the Nooksack’s South Fork
- WPUDA Government Relations Committee had Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz as a guest speaker, Franz recently reported that more wildfires are on the west side of the Cascades, and in regards to building aerial fiber in east Whatcom County with potential of fires concerns her.
- Attending Energy NW dinner on August 23;
- Will be attending WPUDA Committee meetings in September via Zoom.

Grant:

- Ribbon cutting event for Port’s first segment of broadband was last week.
- Plans to attend calls with Heimgartner related to geo thermal energy.

8. Public Comment

Rick Maricle commented that the Hanford reservation where Energy Northwest is interested in solar field placement, is in the threatened Sage Grouse habitat area.

9. Executive Session

Commission President Deshmane requested an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g): To review the qualifications and/or performance of a public employee. Estimated time for Executive Session was sixty (60) minutes. The Commission President indicated no action was anticipated to be taken after the adjournment of Executive Session. After a short recess, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 10:04 a.m.

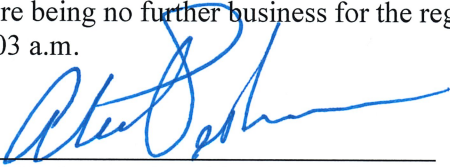
- At 10:58 a.m., an additional five minutes was requested.

Executive Session Adjourn

There being no further business for Executive Session, the Commission rejoined the Regular Commission Meeting at 11:02 a.m.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business for the regular meeting, Deshmane adjourned the regular meeting at 11:03 a.m.



Atul Deshmane, President/Commissioner



Christine Grant, Vice President/Commissioner



Jaime Arnett, 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/2023-agendas-packets-meeting-minutes-recordings/>