

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3  
OF MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

President Farmer called a regular teleconference meeting of the Mason County PUD No. 3 board of commissioners to order at 10:33 a.m. The meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams in Shelton, Washington, on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

District officers present were: Commissioners, Thomas J. Farmer; Linda R. Gott; Bruce E. Jorgenson Manager Annette Creekpaum; Attorney Robert Johnson; Risk Manager/Auditor Brian Taylor; Finance Manager/Treasurer Sherry Speaks.

The following PUD 3 personnel were present: IS Manager John Bennett; Environmental & Admin Specialist Ali Burgess; Communications & Government Relations Manager Lynn Eaton; Director of Business Operations Michelle Endicott; Director of Engineering & Utility Services Justin Holzgrove; Conservation Manager Koral Miller; Network Systems & Cyber Security Administrator Joel Moore; Power Manager Michele Patterson; Administrative Services Manager Mary Taylor-Monger (recorded minutes).

Member of the public in attendance (teleconference) was Randy Lewis of Shelton

MODIFICATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Farmer reviewed the items listed on the consent agenda. Mr. Jorgenson moved; motion seconded by Ms. Gott to adopt the consent agenda. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. By adopting the consent agenda, the following items were approved:

- a. Minutes of the October 27, 2020 public hearing and regular commission meeting.
- b. Voucher Nos. (November 03, 2020) 155846 through 155916 \$ 704,051.89  
(Includes electronic funds transfer payment Nos. 24686-24710)
- c. Voucher Nos. (November 10, 2020) 155917 through 155999 \$ 3,488,979.21  
(Includes electronic funds transfer payment Nos. 24711-24918)
- Total** \$ 4,193,031.10
- d. Governance Policy Expense Approval
- e. Void accounts payable checks for the week ending October 30, 2020 in the total amount of \$7,527.44 and the week ending November 5, 2020 in the total amount of \$11.73.

\*Vouchers audited and certified by the district auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public comment was given.

## STAFF REPORT

Mrs. Creekpaum recognized that PUD offices will be closed on November 11, 2020 in observance of Veterans Day. She thanked Commissioners Jorgenson and Farmer for their service as well as Commissioner Gott's families' service.

Mrs. Creekpaum stated that Commissioner Farmer has been re-elected to a new six (6) year term starting January 1, 2021.

Mrs. Creekpaum reported on the current COVID-19 efforts. As of November 9, 2020, there are 622 confirmed COVID-19 cases, sixty-two (62) active cases and ten (10) COVID related death in Mason County. Washington State has 122,310 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 2,552 COVID related deaths.

Mrs. Creekpaum provided commission with an update on the funding for the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) funding for COVID-19 related costs for customers. There are currently 465 customer applications for bill assistance. Today is the last day for the customers to submit applications. Staff are working thru the documentation process and will submit qualified applications to the county by November 30, 2020.

Mrs. Creekpaum provided an engineering report. There have been 824 applications received thru October 2020. Compared to 2019 with 736 applications. This is an increase of twelve (12) percent when we already had a forty-one (41) percent increase in application from 2018 to 2019. New service applications totaled 65 compared to 37 last year.

At Mrs. Creekpaum's request, Mr. Holzgrove provided an update on the growth in the north end of the county. He reviewed the county environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Belfair urban growth and the concerns of the utility moving forward. There have been many years of slow growth in the Belfair area but now a rush on new requests has put a strain on available power capacity. Initial planning conversations have been started with the Bonneville Power Administration to reconfigure high voltage electrical facilities in the North Mason County area in order to increase available capacity and network reliability. A long-term plan is necessary and being discussed between all parties involved.

At Mrs. Creekpaum's request, Mrs. Eaton provided an American Public Power Association (APPA) award announcement and legislative report. Mrs. Eaton announced that the Utility received two prestigious awards at the recent APPA National Conference. This is a big honor to be honored by peers at a national level. PUD 3 was one (1) of four (4) utilities of our size in the nation to receive the highest award for excellence in communications for a print and digital campaign. This was for our rebranding efforts. The second award was for web and social media campaigns. We were one (1) of two (2) utilities of our size to receive the award for excellence. This was in response to our COVID 19 campaign that promoted services that are still available during the pandemic. Mrs. Eaton reviewed the current election outcomes and the effects of the impacts to our industry.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Ms. Gott reported that she will be calling in for the PPC annual meeting and the upcoming PNUC meeting. She stated that the upcoming NoaNet meeting will be historical as they have received a consensus from members to move forward with the NoaNet bond sales.

Mr. Farmer thanked everyone associated with his campaign and is stated he is ready to get to work on his third term.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

With no further business appearing, the commission meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

  
Thomas J Farmer (Nov 29, 2020 11:47 PST)

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Thomas J Farmer, President

  
Linda R. Gott (Nov 29, 2020 12:30 PST)

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Linda R. Gott, Vice President

ATTEST:

  
Bruce E. Jorgenson (Nov 29, 2020 20:44 PST)

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Bruce E. Jorgenson, Secretary