

MINUTES OF PUBLIC 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 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams in Shelton, Washington, on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

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; Customer Service Manager Diane Hennessy; Director of Engineering & Utility Services Justin Holzgrove; Conservation Manager Koral Miller; Network Systems & Cyber Security Administrator Joel Moore; Administration Services Manager Mary Taylor-Monger (recorded minutes).

Members of the public in attendance were Dedrick Allen of *Mason Web TV* (teleconference), Randy Lewis of Shelton (video conference), and Ron Bock of Alderbrook Homeowner's Association (video conference).

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 January 26, 2021 regular commission meeting.
- b. Voucher Nos. (February 02, 2021) 156714 through 156790 \$ 925,007.33
(Includes electronic funds transfer payment Nos. 26220-26246)
- c. Voucher Nos. (February 9, 2021) 156791 through 156857 \$ 468,681.51
(Includes electronic funds transfer payment Nos. 26032-26219)
- Total** \$ 1,393,688.84
- d. Void accounts payable checks for the week ending January 29, 2021 in the amount of \$116.95 and the week ending February 5, 2021 in the amount of \$916.20.
- e. Governance Policy Expense Approval

*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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Bock of Alderbrook Homeowner's Association requested Commission approval to annex the Alderbrook community that currently resides in PUD 3 service territory mapping but is serviced and billed by PUD 1. His request would annex the 684 residents and give them voting authority for PUD 1 commissioners.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items were presented.

STAFF REPORT

Mrs. Creekpau reported on the current COVID-19 efforts. As of February 8, 2021, there are 1,630 confirmed COVID-19 cases, and twenty-two (22) COVID related deaths in Mason County. There were 72 new confirmed cases in the last fourteen (14) days and 111 confirmed cases per 100,000 tested. As of February 5, 2021, Washington State has 304,382 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 4,449 COVID related deaths, and 833,935 vaccinations given. As of December 2020, unemployment in Mason County was 8.6 percent and Washington State was 7.2 percent.

Mrs. Creekpau noted that the Alderbrook territory discussion is being reviewed. At Mrs. Creekpau's request, Mr. Johnson reported on the legal status of this change. Per RCW 54.04.035: Annexation of territory, both PUD 1 and PUD 3 will have to agree to annex either by each board of commissioners approving identical resolutions approving annexation or by a petition of registered voters residing in the area. There will be more discussion before a final review.

At Mrs. Creekpau's request, Mrs. Eaton gave a legislative update. Among updates on several bills which could possibly impact Mason PUD 3, she reported that the PUD is monitoring two retail telecommunication bills, HB 1336 and SB 5383, as well as the PUD registered in support of HB 1446 "Prohibiting a utility from being assessed a penalty for not meeting its biennial acquisition target for cost-effective conservation in special circumstances outside the utility's control," allowing flexibility in mandated conservation requirements during emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Mrs. Creekpau's request, Mr. Holzgrove gave an engineering update. The Parkerville neighborhood, an off-grid community near Big Creek Campground, has been working with PUD 3 for many years to get connected. PUD received preliminary approval from the United States Forest Service to extend electrical services. The first customer to connect, Norm Olsen, has paid for his line extension. The common facilities will be put on PUD sharing. The neighbors are working together to build a road for utility access. Final approval is required from the USFS before utility construction can begin along their rights of way. Mr. Holzgrove discussed a recent bid that was awarded to Nisqually Communications for a fourteen (14)-mile fiber line extension from the intersection of Shelton Matlock Road and Dayton Airport Road towards Shelton and throughout much of Shelton Valley. This line extension has been in the planning and design stage for years and is needed to get a critical regulator rack online for SCADA. The Shelton Valley Fiberhood will also be connected as a result of this project.

Mr. Holzgrove reported on January 2020 telecommunication applications. There were fifty-eight (58) new service applications and eighty-seven (87) retail requests, for a total of 145 applications.

Mr. Holzgrove gave an update on the Tahuya River Valley fiber connection. This project began in September 2020 and originally had an estimated completion from the contractor of February 1, 2021 but has been pushed back to Spring 2021. The contract obligation is for completion by June 1, 2021. Mrs. Eaton and Mr. Holzgrove will be notifying affected customers with the updated timeline.

Mrs. Creekpaum reported on the virtual all-employee annual meeting that took place on January 29, 2021. The theme for 2021 is "Culture of Care," caring for ourselves as employees and customers is critical during the ongoing pandemic. The monthly "Coffee Chats" have also been taking place virtually to keep employees up to date on recent PUD projects and news.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Ms. Gott reported that she attended the Energy Northwest executive board and board of directors' meetings and the Resource Adequacy Seminars.

Mr. Farmer reported that he attended the Public Power Council meetings. He recognized the value of having regional utilities come together for combined research and legal expertise.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

With no further business appearing, the commission meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.


THOMAS J FARMER (Feb 23, 2021 11:46 PST)
Thomas J Farmer, President


Linda R. Gott (Feb 23, 2021 16:48 PST)
Linda R. Gott, Vice President

ATTEST:


Bruce E. Jorgenson (Feb 23, 2021 16:50 PST)
Bruce E. Jorgenson, Secretary