

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

President Farmer called a regular hybrid meeting of the Mason County PUD No. 3 board of commissioners to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in person and virtually using Microsoft Teams in Shelton, Washington, on Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

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

The following PUD 3 personnel were present: John Bennett IS Manager; Safety and Environmental Programs Coordinator 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; 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 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 July 27, 2021, regular commission meeting.
- b. Voucher Nos. (August 3, 2021) 158350 through 158391 \$ 603,803.65  
(Includes electronic funds transfer payment Nos. 29120-29136)
- c. Voucher Nos. (August 10, 2021) 158392 through 158464 \$ 193,606.47  
(Includes electronic funds transfer payment Nos. 29137-29160)
- Total** \$ 797,410.12
- d. Governance Policy Expense Approval
- e. Void accounts payable checks for the week ending July 30, 2021, in the amount of \$80.44 and the week ending August 6, 2021, in the amount of \$1,895.54.

\*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

No public comment was given.

## STAFF REPORT

Mrs. Creekpau reported on the current COVID-19 efforts. As of August 6, 2021, there are 2,529 confirmed COVID-19 cases, and thirty-nine (39) COVID related deaths in Mason County. There were 161 new confirmed cases in the last fourteen (14) days and 248 confirmed cases per 100,000 tested. Mason County has 47.7 percent of its population fully vaccinated. Washington State, as of August 6, 2021, has 445,081 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 6,168 COVID related deaths, and 8.2 million vaccinations given. Washington State has 58 percent of its population fully vaccinated. She stated that 100 percent of PUD 3's Senior Leadership team has been vaccinated.

Mrs. Creekpau stated that through the infrastructure funding with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds via Mason County, PUD 3 will receive 1.5 million in funding that was requested. This will be for phase one (1) of three (3) phases of the substation build in Belfair. Staff will continue to work on funding for this expensive project.

Mrs. Creekpau reported that NoaNet is taking the lead on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) application for federal funding of a 3.7 million grant. If received, it will benefit the West Cloquallum community. More information will be provided as it progresses.

Mrs. Creekpau provided commission with a telecommunication application update. New applications in July 2021 total 78 and year to date 342. This is compared to 276 in 2020.

Mrs. Creekpau stated that although budget planning happens year-round, it is now in full swing for the 2022 budget. The power costs are a major part of the budget. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has announced a decrease in rates for 2022 at an average of 2.5 percent and an average increase of transmission rates of 6.1 percent. Mason PUD 3 transmission increase are estimated at 10.8 percent due to many services provided by BPA. These are estimates of the forecast and they will vary.

At Mrs. Creekpau's request, Ms. Patterson provided a power situation statement for June. She reviewed the increase in demand costs due to the heat wave that occurred in June.

Mrs. Creekpau reviewed the progress with payments and payment arrangements of delinquent commercial accounts that are outside of the current moratorium. On September 30, 2021, the moratorium will be lifted on residential accounts. The next eight (8) weeks will have heavy marketing toward customers so payments and arrangements can be made prior to September 30, 2021, to avoid disconnection of service. Customer Service is actively working on these accounts and directing customers to financial help available.

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Mrs. Gott reported that in July she attended the APPA policy maker meetings. She attended Energy Northwest meetings and stated that Bob Schuetz has been hired as the new Energy Northwest CEO. She also attended the EDC event at Ridge Motor Sports.

Mr. Farmer reported that he attended the recent PPC and NRU meetings.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

With no further business appearing, the commission meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

  
THOMAS J FARMER (Aug 24, 2021 11:27 PDT)

Thomas J Farmer, President

  
Linda R. Gott (Aug 24, 2021 16:17 PDT)

Linda R. Gott, Vice President

ATTEST:

  
Bruce E Jorgenson (Aug 24, 2021 16:21 PDT)

Bruce E. Jorgenson, Secretary