

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

March 26, 2024

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 8:15 a.m. by Commissioner Jaime Arnett. 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: General Manager Chris Heimgartner; Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager; Ann Grimm, Executive Assistant; Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Aaron Peterson, IT/SCADA Technician; Garrett Love-Smith, Project Manager; Kurt Wank, Director of Utility Operations; and Annette Smith, Director of Finance; and Stephanie Hooper, Accountant I.

Public attending:

Rick Maricle

Dave Olson

Jack Wellman, PSE

2. Approval of Agenda

Sitkin requested to add a thirty-minute Executive Session to discuss the performance evaluation of a public employee and potential litigation.

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE AGENDA MARCH 26, 2024 AS AMENDED. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2024;

b) Approval of the Claims of March 26, 2024:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
BAKER SEPTIC TANK PUMPING	309.51
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION	651,697.00
CARL'S MOWER & SAW, INC	1,087.99
CESCO NEW CONCEPT CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	117.18
CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS	11,801.12
COBB, FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES	5,060.96
COMCAST	194.86
COMCAST - NWRC	300.00
CULLIGAN NORTHWEST	102.33
EAGLE EYE POWER SOLUTIONS, LLC	4,190.15
FASTENAL	385.04
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	36.97
GOODWIN, CHRISTOPHER	500.00
GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC	2,492.52
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	21,379.76
MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC	12,840.00
NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY	5,104.03
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	4,577.49
PAYLOCITY	449.16
PAYROLL	227,269.29
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	653.07
POTELCO, INC	91,442.22
PUBLIC UTILITY RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	227.14
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	189.89
RH2 ENGINEERING, INC	238.83
SOUND PUBLISHING	111.72
STAR RENTALS	1,705.78
TUPPER MACK WELLS PLLC	9,621.50
WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES	6,830.35
WA ST DEPT OF REV PRIVLGE	218,538.70
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - EXCISE TAX	81,894.50
WESTERN CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS	8,225.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,369,724.06

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF MARCH 26, 2023. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment – None made.

5. General Manager's Report

The General Manager discussed Western power markets.

6. Old Business

a) Broadband Program Update

EntriKin provided an update on Point Roberts and future BEAD funding.

b) Adjudication Update

Sitkin provided update.

c) Legislative Update – no update.

d) Geothermal Update

Legislative update: ESSB 6039 will be signed by the Governor. Grant is working on a press release with Representative Ramel. Commissioner Arnett suggested a resolution supporting the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) be brought to the Commission in August.

7. New Business

a) Approve Purchase of Rockwell Variable Frequency Drive

Staff requested that North Coast provide a quote to replace and install a new 480V VFD. On March 18, 2024, the District received the following quote from North Coast:

Rockwell 480V VFD \$298,735.68 (tax not included)

Staff recommends proceeding with the purchase of the VFD from North Coast. There is no fiscal impact as the VFD and installation has been budgeted for 2024 under line-item CIP: RW-48

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE PURCHASE FOR A NEW 700HP 480V ROCKWELL VFD AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE PURCHASE ORDER. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Operations Report

Wank reported on Water Treatment Plant 1. An update regarding the plans/rebuild of Plant 1 was requested by Commissioner Grant.

9. Commissioner Reports

Grant:

- Will be in conversation with the BPA transmission group on what it would take for the geothermal project.

Deshmane:

- Plans to attend the annual Lake Whatcom joint meeting with County Council and City Council;
- Plans to attend the WPUA committee meetings and Public Power Council meeting next month;

Arnett:

- Will plan to attend the WPUA Water Committee meeting on Thursday.
- Reconfirmed the per diem discussion and reviewing Commissioners expenses.
- Commented on District policies which need to be updated. Sitkin said the policies and employee handbook is in the process of being updated.

10. Public Comment – None made.

11. Executive Session

Commissioner Arnett requested an Executive Session to review the qualifications and/or performance of a public employee and potential litigation. Estimated time was 30 minutes; adjournment time for Executive Session at 10:05 a.m. No action is anticipated after Executive Session. After a short recess, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 9:36 a.m.

At 10:05 a.m. an additional ten minutes was requested;

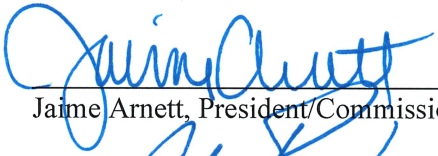
At 10:15 a.m. an additional five minutes was requested.

Executive Session Adjourn

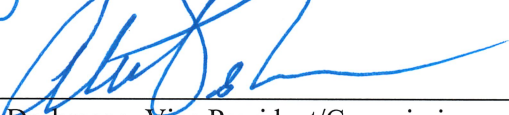
There being no further business for Executive Session, the Commission rejoined the Regular Commission Meeting at 10:19 a.m.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business for the regular meeting, Commissioner Arnett adjourned the regular meeting at 10:20 a.m.



Jaime Arnett, President/Commissioner



Atul Deshmane, Vice President/Commissioner



Christine Grant, 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/2024-agenda-packets-meeting-minutes-recordings/>