

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2022
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Franklin County held a special meeting at 1411 West Clark St., Pasco, WA, on May 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting was conducted in accordance with the current *Proclamation by the Governor, Amending and Extending 20-05, and 20-28 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act* in effect; remote technology options were provided for the public to participate.

Those who participated from the District via remote technology or in person for all or part of the meeting were Commissioner Roger Wright, President; Commissioner Bill Gordon, Vice President; Commissioner Stu Nelson, Secretary; Scott Rhees, General Manager; Holly Dohrman, Assistant General Manager; Steve Ferraro, Operations Director; Victor Fuentes, Engineering Director; and Rosario Viera, Supervisor of Executive Administration.

Additional staff that participated in person or via remote technology for all or part of the meeting was Ben Hooper, Superintendent of Metering, Broadband and Fleet; Brent Weatherman, Broadband Engineer; and Fred Wells, Broadband Support Technician.

Public participating in person or via remote technology for any part of the meeting was Dusty Powers, Telco Wiring.

OPENING

Commissioner Wright called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and called on Mr. Weatherman to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Wright reported that the purpose of the special meeting was to have a presentation and discussion on the District's broadband infrastructure and future broadband opportunities. He noted that no additional matters would be discussed and no action would be taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public participating via the remote technology option or written public comment provided prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Wright asked for public comment. Mr. Powers reported that he has been a Retail Service Provider with the District since the District first began providing wholesale broadband services. He reported that a substantial portion of his business is done through the District's broadband infrastructure. Mr. Powers reported that matters related to the District's broadband business plan affect his business greatly. He noted that he has appreciated working with the District and its broadband staff and noted it has been a positive working relationship.

Commissioner Wright thanked Mr. Powers for attending and noted that the District also values

the relationships with its Retail Service Providers. He noted that he appreciated Mr. Powers attending and being engaged in the matters of the District.

AGENDA ITEM 4, BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Wright called on Mr. Hooper for introductions.

Mr. Hooper introduced his staff and noted that collectively his staff had over 40 years of experience in the broadband industry. He noted that he appreciated their work and successes in his department were due to their efforts.

Through a presentation Mr. Hooper shared information on the District's broadband. The presentation included statistical information on current services being provided, the customers being served, number of Retail Service Providers, and revenues from the broadband services the District provides.

The presentation included:

- current general information on the challenges in providing broadband services such as increase in demand, competition and inflation in both materials and labor; and,
- information on the recent legislation that passed allowing utility districts retail authority, the benefits and concerns in pursuing retail authority and various financial scenarios.

Mr. Hooper reviewed the financial scenarios for various business case opportunities. It was noted that slide 16 needed a correction to the footnote numbering. Ms. Viera noted that the correction would be made and sent via email to the Commission after the meeting. There was discussion on the assumptions used for the financial scenarios for the various business case opportunities and Commissioner Wright asked for more detail on the depreciation schedule used for the broadband infrastructure assets. Staff noted they would provide the additional information at a future meeting.

The Commission asked Mr. Powers for additional comment on the scenarios presented. Mr. Powers noted that, as a Retail Service Provider, Telco was willing to serve areas where the District was willing to put in the additional infrastructure. Mr. Powers noted there were concerns however, there were also opportunities as well. There was general discussion on the areas the District currently provides broadband service, and the areas where service was lacking or there was no service at all.

Mr. Powers reported the customer's attitude towards broadband services have changed considerably since he first began. He noted that broadband services are no longer an optional service but rather seen as an essential service. He reported that this has increased demand from customers. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Wright noted that staff needs to continue to be involved and be part of the solution.

The Commission asked about marketing strategies being used and Mr. Hooper reported that ads have been placed for the new colocation facilities.

Commissioner Wright asked about the small cell deployment and how District staff would respond if there were a sudden influx of service requests. Mr. Hooper reported that all resources would be used, including contractors. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Gordon noted that it was important to keep good relationships with neighboring utilities and the Retail Service Providers. He noted that he appreciated Mr. Powers attending and participating in the discussion.

Mr. Powers reiterated that he appreciated the District and the Broadband department staff. He noted that he hopes to continue to have a positive working relationship with the District.

The Commission thanked Mr. Hooper for the presentation and discussion, and Mr. Powers for attending.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT


With no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Wright adjourned the special meeting at 11:23 a.m. The next meeting will be a regular meeting on May 10, 2022 at 1 p.m. at the District's Auditorium located at 1411 W. Clark St. Pasco, WA, and will be held in accordance with the current Governor's proclamation in affect. Remote technology options are also provided for members of the public to participate.



Roger Wright, President



William Gordon, Vice President



Stuart Nelson, Secretary