

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF CLALLAM COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 1, 2017

A joint work session of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Clallam County and the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Port Angeles was held at the Main Office, 104 Hooker Road in Sequim, WA, on the above date commencing at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Hugh E. Simpson, Jr., President; Will Purser, Vice President; Hugh Haffner, Secretary

Staff Present: Doug Nass, General Manager; Beau Brown, Treasurer Controller; Nicole Clark, Executive Assistant; Steve Schopfer, IT Manager; Shawn Delplain, Network Engineer

Others Present: Colleen McAleer, Port Commissioner; Connie Beauvais, Port Commissioner; Steven Burke, Commissioner; Karen Goschen, Executive Director; John Nutter, Director of Finance & Administration; Michael Dashiell, Sequim Gazette; Michael Cobb

Commissioner McAleer thanked those present for the opportunity to meet. Commissioner Simpson provided an overview of the authority and role of PUDs. Commissioner McAleer provided a background of the history of the role of Ports, and discussed some of the Port's top priorities to boost economic development, including air service, and sustainable timber harvest.

The barriers to air service were discussed. Ultimately without a subsidized program, it will be difficult to be able to meet the right price point for tickets to make it a viable transportation option, especially with the cost and difficulty involved in getting direct flights into SeaTac. The Lt. Governor has a special interest in this topic and they hope to have him come out to Port Angeles to meet on the issue.

Commissioner Beauvais spoke on the subject of reliable and sustainable timber harvest. The Port has to balance both the supply and demand side of the industry. Most of the reason local mills have closed is they did not have a sustainable supply. The Port has been in communication with the Department of Natural Resources on the subject. The Port is interested in new technologies such as cross-laminated timber and staff has been approved to apply for grant money to attract that type of manufacturing business to the area. Updating the building codes will also be a huge help in influencing architectural firms to start considering these new materials. Commissioner Simpson said that there needs to be more discussion and education about the value of sequestered carbon. Trees in the growth phase are taking in all the carbon they can until they reach a point where they start to rot and then the process reverses with carbon. That's a story that needs to be told in the public and taught in schools.

PUD Network Engineer Shawn Delplain provided a background of NoaNet and how PUDs became involved in broadband. The PUD does not have retail authority but serves eight ISPs. The PUD does not provide service within the Port Angeles city limits. Commissioner McAleer asked which area of the County has the greatest need, to which Mr. Delplain responded that he felt Forks had the greatest need as they are still operating on old infrastructure. Commissioner Purser mentioned that there was an effort in the legislature to bring retail authority to PUDs. Clallam PUD has been neutral as it would not necessarily benefit the PUD or customers.

A discussion was held about the Carlsborg sewer and the status of the UGA and water rights. Port Commissioners also inquired as to opportunities for student internships in order to help retain future employees in Clallam County. The District does have an apprenticeship program to train for lineman positions.

Commissioner McAleer asked about the needs of PUDs for the funding of water projects. Commissioner Simpson explained the role of the Public Works Trust Fund which has been substantially diminished. Commissioner McAleer offered that the Port is willing to provide letters of support for issues to the PUD. Commissioner Simpson provided an example of recent legislation regarding 5G and pole contacts which he expects to see in future proposed legislation which could be very difficult because of safety issues.

Executive Director Karen Goschen suggested that the two agencies should meet once a year as issues arise.

The work session adjourned at 11:43 p.m.