

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanogan County  
Public Utility District Board of Commissioners**

**Brewster Community Center  
January 25, 2005 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Board: Ernest Bolz, David Womack, Donald Johnson

Staff: Chuck Berrie, Doug Adams, Don Coppock, Derek Miller, Reid Rubert,  
Debra Peters, Steve Brown, Julie Pyper

Other: Michael Howe - Legal Counsel

Public: John Umberger, Robert Umberger, Dave Grooms Roberta Donnor,  
Rebecca Meadows

**Summary Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Approval of Work Orders
5. Approval of Vouchers
6. Approval of Transfer of Accounts
7. Public Comment
8. Economic Alliance Service Agreement
9. Manager's Report
10. Public Comment
11. Meetings
12. Executive Session
13. Adjournment

**1. Call to Order:**

President Bolz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

Commissioner Johnson added a brief discussion on the Board Highlights to be addressed with Approval of Minutes.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2005 regular meeting. Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Commissioner Johnson moved to eliminate the Board Highlights. Commissioner Bolz seconded the motion. Johnson recommended that a draft of the Minutes be made available to the Board within 48 hours of a meeting. The Minutes could then be posted to the website, which would free up the staff member responsible for compiling Board Highlights from attending the meetings. Commissioner Womack expressed concern with posting the Minutes on the website for public review prior to Board approval. He supported Board Highlights because they are not as detailed as Minutes. Johnson pointed out that the Minutes would not be official if they stated "Draft - Not Approved". Commissioner Bolz favored continuing with the Board Highlights as staff needs input quickly after the meetings. Upon the vote on the motion to eliminate Board Highlights, Commissioners Bolz and Womack voted no. The motion failed.

#### 4. Approval of Work Orders:

The following work orders were submitted for approval:

04-0237	District, Hwy. 97, Oroville	\$1,947.00
04-0353	District, Eberle Rd.	4,850.00
04-0369	Dist., Deer Path Pump Station, Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation Dist.	6,807.00
04-0426	District, Crawfish Lake	846.00
04-0561	U.S. Customs Multipurpose Building, Osoyoos Border	20,128.00
04-0596	District/Cemetery Rd.	47,787.00
04-0597	Okanogan County Child Development, 631 W. Ridge Dr., Omak	3,989.00
04-0603	District, Hwy. 153	3,393.00
04-0623	Brian Nelson, 2192 Tonasket-Havillah Rd., Oroville	3,899.00
04-0626	District, alley between 1st & 2nd, Okanogan	56,564.00
04-0627	Steve Voelckers, 476 Pharr Rd.	3,346.00
04-0628	George Webster, 906 Virginia Pl.	3,269.00
04-0629	Kevin Skirko, 1002 Old Hwy. 97	2,385.00
05-0051	Dean Buzzard, Chopaka Rd.	21,836.00
05-0052	City of Okanogan, Highland Dr.	713.00
05-0053	Fitzhugh, N. Star Rd., Brewster	3,130.00
05-0055	District, Horse Spring Coulee Rd.	1,979.00
05-0058	District, Crazy Rapids Pump Plant	1,527.00
05-0065	District, Cemetery Rd.	3,053.00
	Total	\$191,448.00

Commissioner Womack moved to approve the work orders. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

#### 5. Approval of Vouchers:

Vouchers No.'s 85267 through 85360 in the amount of \$971,313.71, No.'s 85361 through 85387 in the amount of \$178,153.49, No.'s 85388 through 85488 in the

amount of \$1,117,069.82, and No. 85489 in the amount of \$1,041.20 were submitted for payment from the revenue fund.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

#### **6. Transfer of Accounts:**

There were no accounts or invoices submitted for write-off/collection due to nonpayment.

#### **7. Public Comment:**

No comments were received from the public.

#### **8. Economic Alliance Service Agreement:**

Manager Berrie presented an overview of a proposed Agreement between the District and Economic Alliance of Okanogan County. Among the provisions of the Agreement, the Economic Alliance would keep the District fully informed of potential new or added load by commercial or industrial customers or large residential developments; assist the District in the coordination of services, planning and developing infrastructure with other public agencies; and notify the District of grant opportunities for telecommunications, conservation and renewable/distributed generation in the County. The total compensation to the Economic Alliance for the term January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005 would be \$6,000 payable in equal semi-annual installments upon invoice submitted together with a report as to activities. Either party may terminate the Agreement for any reason by giving the other party 30 days' advance written notice. Commissioner Johnson suggested that if all the services included in the Agreement were provided it would be a bargain. He asked if the Alliance staff was adequate to fulfill the Agreement and expressed the need for regular reports to determine if the increased funding from \$2,500 to \$6,000/year was warranted by services provided.

Commissioner Womack moved to authorize the Manager to enter into an Agreement with Economic Alliance of Okanogan County in the amount of \$6,000 for the term January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005 (to assist the District in the planning and preparing for facilities expansion to serve new and added load and to coordinate with other agencies and electrical consumers for more efficient delivery of service by the District). Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried. (The Economic Alliance will be requested to provide semi-annual oral reports to the Board.)

#### **9. Manager's Report:**

Manager Berrie reported on the following:

A Professional Services Agreement for the Telecom Study Project has been submitted to Sparling Telecommunications Consulting Services for signature. It is anticipated that Sparling will begin the project soon. Randall Kowalke, who will assist with facilitating the study to be performed by Sparling, will be contacting the Commissioners in early February.

An Application for a Preliminary Permit for the Enloe Hydroelectric Project has been sent for filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Staff has also distributed a Request for Qualifications to obtain a primary consultant for the licensing process.

Manager Berrie and Commissioner Bolz will attend a Northwest Open Access Network workshop for Board members, Member Representatives and Managers in Seattle on February 1-2. Greg Marney of Noa Net is scheduled to attend the March 8 Okanogan PUD Board meeting.

A representative of the North Central Washington Educational Services District is scheduled to make a presentation to the Board at the February 8 meeting.

Web Hallauer of Oroville has been instrumental in scheduling a tentative meeting in Osoyoos on February 4 to discuss water quality, water availability and hydro-generation issues with Canadian Regional District Commissioner Ike Scheffler and other representatives. Manager Berrie and Commissioner Bolz plan to attend the meeting.

#### **10. Public Comment:**

John Umberger presented a question in regard to power supply.

In noting that his company's transport is dependent on the PUD's Telecom facility, Dave Grooms of SES Americom, Inc. (Verestar) asked how the District intends to handle manpower issues in the Telecommunications Department with the departure of one vital employee. (Manager Berrie noted that the District's Telecom Study will evaluate manpower; however, for the short-term, contractual services agreements are in place and existing staff and consultants are very familiar with the network.)

#### **11. Meetings:**

Commissioner Bolz traveled to Olympia on January 11 to attend a Washington PUD Association orientation for new Commissioners on January 12-13, returning home on January 13.

Commissioner Johnson traveled to Olympia on January 13 to attend a WPUDA Legislative reception on January 13 and a Legislative Committee/Board of Directors meeting on January 14, returning home on January 14.

Commissioner Johnson will attend Energy Northwest's Regular and Executive Board meetings in Richland on January 26-27. Commissioner Womack will attend Washington PUD Association meetings in Olympia on February 17-18.

Commissioner Johnson submitted Proceedings of Interest from the WPUDA Legislative Committee and Board of Director's meeting he attended in Olympia on January 13-14. At the WPUDA Board meeting, the Building Development Committee presented building size and cost options for a new office building, which will be voted on at the mid-February meeting. The Okanogan PUD Commissioners will address the Committee's recommendation and the District's proposed assessment at the February 8 meeting.

Reid Rubert was introduced as the District's new Southern Area Manager.

The next Okanogan PUD Board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., February 8 at the Okanogan PUD Auditorium.

## **12. Executive Session:**

President Bolz recessed the Commission into executive session at 7:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation. The executive session was expected to conclude at 7:45 p.m., at which time it was announced that an additional 30 minutes were necessary.

President Bolz reconvened the Commission into regular session at 8:36 p.m. Commissioner Womack moved to authorize the Manager to make salary adjustments for salary grade personnel for changes in responsibility, merit, or step increases as may apply, in an amount not to exceed 1.5% of the current total salaries for all salary-grade employees. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Johnson requested to be provided with salary history and comparisons of like positions. Upon the vote, the motion unanimously carried.

## **13. Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Ernest J. Bolz, President

ATTEST:

David A. Womack, Vice-President

Donald W. Johnson, Secretary