

**COLUMBIA RIVER PEOPLE’S UTILITY DISTRICT
Special Meeting – Budget Advisory Committee
October 02, 2018**

CONVENE MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Columbia River PUD was called to order by Vice President, Harry Price, at the Deer Island District Office at 5:30 p.m. The following individuals were present:

Directors:

Harry Price
Craig Melton
Debbie Reed

Staff:

John Nguyen
Lonny Lee
Tim Lammers
Lil Guisinger

Branden Staehely
Heidi Ralls
Sonia Wendelschafer
Kristen Dean

Committee:

Charles Petersen
Grant Gillis
Dave Pedersen

Rita Bernhard
Bill Eagle
Dave Lawrence

Dan Garrison
Matt Brown

Public:

Jason Folden

Jeff Louie

Director Price and J. Nguyen welcomed everyone and thanked the Committee and Board for attending. Introductions were made and J. Nguyen extended his thanks to staff for putting the presentation and second draft budget together. The committee was encouraged to interact throughout the meeting.

J. Nguyen reminded the committee of the PUD’s budgeting philosophy of conservatism – the preference to err on the side of underestimating revenues and overestimating expenses; cost control – working smarter and doing more with less; and that major projects must align with the PUD’s strategic goals and objectives. He reviewed the upcoming opportunities and challenges which include capital projects, power supply increased costs, revenue reductions, and staffing levels.

S. Wendelschafer and L. Guisinger reviewed payroll and benefits. L. Guisinger noted the 2019 PERS contributions are expected to be above \$1million.

L. Guisinger reviewed the Revenue and Power costs, sales, and assumptions including growth and new load. It was noted that a projected six percent rate increase was built into the current budget.

Staff discussed individual departmental budgets, welcoming questions from the committee.

L. Lee provided information on current and future IT Projects including the new Enterprise system, replacement of the phone system, a document management system, and replacement of SAN and servers.

T. Lammers reviewed upcoming energy efficiency projects and provided an update on the rebate programs offered through BPA. He discussed the Electric Vehicle program

and provided information on various charging options. Committee members discussed the future of electric vehicles and the importance of creating infrastructure surrounding the transition within Columbia County. T. Lammers also reviewed several facility maintenance capital projects slated for 2019.

B. Staehley reviewed engineering and operations staffing levels, and the vehicle replacement schedule. He reviewed customer work trends, capital construction, tree trimming trends, and briefly discussed the 10-year capital improvement plan including Substation work.

The committee requested clarification on BPA transmission rates. Discussion occurred on the 2019 COSA and the potential transition to add demand charge to residential customer bills.

J. Nguyen reviewed the 2019 Budget schedule and invited the committee to contact staff with any questions or comments that can be addressed at the October 23, 2018 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting. He thanked the Committee again for attending.

No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Columbia River People's Utility District

By  _____
Heidi Ralls, Board Secretary