

COLUMBIA RIVER PEOPLE’S UTILITY DISTRICT
Special Meeting – Budget Advisory Committee
October 10, 2017

CONVENE MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Columbia River PUD was called to order by President, Jake Carter, at the Deer Island District Office at 5:15 p.m. The following individuals were present:

Directors:

Jake Carter
Craig Melton
Harry Price
Debbie Reed

Staff:

John Nguyen
Libby Calnon
Rick Calnon
Tim Lammers
Kristen Dean
Branden Staehely
Rachel Swanson
Heidi Ralls
Eli Crape

Committee:

Charles Petersen
Rita Bernhard
Haylee Bruce
Jack Carter
Grant Gillis
Jeff Mapes
Bill Eagle

Public: None

J. Nguyen welcomed everyone and thanked the Committee and Board for attending. Introductions were made and John extended his thanks to staff, especially Rachel Swanson for putting the presentation and 2nd draft budget together. The committee was encouraged to interact throughout the meeting.

J. Nguyen reviewed the upcoming opportunities and challenges which include load growth, system capacity, staffing levels and succession planning. He reminded the committee of the PUD’s budgeting philosophy of conservatism – the preference to err on the side of underestimating revenues and overestimating expenses; and consistency.

J. Nguyen reviewed Power Costs and controllable expenses noting the proposed 2018 budget assumes growth and new load for residential and commercial customers.

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

The possibility of utilizing a lock box and other tools through US Bank to aid in streamlining processes was discussed.

K. Dean reviewed the Customer Accounts budget noting options for streamlining collections and reducing costs for staff training are being explored.

T. Lammers reviewed upcoming energy efficiency projects and provided an update on the rebate programs offered through BPA. He discussed the formation of an internal Electric Vehicle Team to explore customers needs and expectations as electric vehicles become more prevalent.

L. Calnon reviewed the Community and Public Relations budget highlighting many of the projects, community events, scholarships, and the promotion of regional campaigns for hydropower and public power her department is planning.

R. Calnon provided information on current and future IT Projects including the replacement of the mapping and outage tracking system and the evaluation of a new Enterprise system. The integration of pre-paid meters was discussed.

E. Crape and B. Staehley reviewed staffing levels and the vehicle replacement schedule.

Staff reviewed the capital budget which include facility work, improvements to the pole yard, and IT capital.

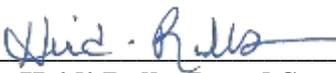
B. Staehely reviewed customer work and capital carryover projects from 2017. He also reviewed the demand response technology and briefly discussed his 10-year capital improvement plan including Substation work.

J. Nguyen asked the committee to contact T. Pinder with any questions or comments that can be addressed at the November 17, 2016 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting and thanked the Committee again for attending.

No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Columbia River People's Utility District

By  _____
Heidi Ralls, Board Secretary