



APPROVED 5-25-16

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Meeting  
April 27, 2016  
6:30 p.m.

Mr. Flint called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Utilities Administration Building.

**Present:** Woodrow Jones, Mark Patterson, Bryan Flint, Monique Trudnowski, Karen Larkin

The meeting was quorate.

**Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Mr. Patterson moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be adopted; seconded by Mrs. Trudnowski. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared adopted and made part of the record.

**Recognitions**

There were no recognitions.

**Comments from the Public**

Judi Chelati and Marlene Crumpton made public comments expressing concern and seeking information about the elevated lead levels found at four Tacoma homes.

John Miles inquired about a bill received after a malfunctioning power meter was replaced. Tony Kendall, Customer Service Operations Manager, met with Mr. Miles off line to resolve the situation.

Open public comment was closed and the public comment sign-up sheet is appended as part of the record.

**Consent Agenda**

There were no items on the consent agenda.

**Regular Agenda**

- D-1 Resolution U-10857 – Award contracts and approve purchases:
1. Award two-year citywide contract to Graybar Electric Company for the purchase of electrical supplies as needed (\$350,000, plus sales tax; with the option to renew one additional year);

2. Award two-year citywide contract to Graybar Electric Company for the purchase of telecommunication supplies and accessories as needed (\$400,000, plus sales tax; with the option to renew two additional one-year periods);
3. Increase contract to MWH Americas, Inc., for the independent consultant safety inspection and report for the Cushman Hydroelectric Project (\$200,000, sales tax not applicable. Cumulative total \$354,342, sales tax not applicable);
4. Award contract to Right! Systems, Inc., for two Cisco core internet routers, software, line cards, and implementation services (\$381,332.13, plus sales tax).

Mr. Patterson moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mrs. Trudnowski.

In response to a Board request for clarification regarding item number three, Terry Ryan, Assistant Power Section Manager, stated that a competitive solicitation for consulting services was done in 2012 for a study of the dams. MWH Americas, Inc. was selected at that time and they recommended a stress test and stability analysis and results are due this summer. It is staff recommendation that, in the interest in consistency and because of the high quality work done thus far, the best team to review the results and analyze the changing seismicity in the region and make recommendations is the one who did the original consulting services.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The resolution was declared adopted.

#### **H. Reports of the Director**

Director Gaines stated that the Board has been provided with the final 2015 annual financial reports. The audit is complete and it is clean with no findings. There will be a future audit report for the Board.

Director Gaines called on Deputy Water Superintendent for Water Quality, Chris McMeen, for water quality report. Mr. McMeen stated that the Council and Board have received complete water quality briefings at study sessions. Tacoma Water has long treated corrosivity of water and has been in compliance with federal rules concerning lead. Until 1929, the standard was the use of lead gooseneck pipes to connect the water main to homes. In the last 100 years, a vast majority of the goosenecks have been replaced, but Tacoma Water was left with a small number of connections remaining. Four homes suspected of having gooseneck connections were tested and were found to have levels of lead above the federal action level. The tests did not take place inside the home. Once the goosenecks were replaced, samples were far below the federal level of 15 parts per billion. Currently, there is detailed sampling taking place with samples being taken both inside the home and mimicking the original meter tests. The plan going forward is to identify where the gooseneck connections are and prioritize them for replacement. Until then, the standard recommendation of flushing the water pipes by running water for approximately two minutes or until the water is cold is recommended. Tacoma Water has identified the gooseneck candidate homes and contacted them via direct mail and media. Outreach, in the form of door hangars, multiple languages, and other methods will continue.

Director Gaines added that Tacoma Water is working in close collaboration with both the State and County Departments of Health and they have been involved informing the testing protocols.

Board Members made comments concerning the serious significance of the water quality situation and expressed appreciation to staff for its transparency and work to remedy the situation. Board Members encouraged seeking stakeholder assistance with communication. In response to a Board request, Mr. McMeen explained that the service mains and meter is the responsibility of Tacoma Water and piping on the customer side of the meter is the homeowner's responsibility. Mr. McMeen concluded by stating that water quality information can be found on the TPU website or by calling 253-502-8207.

**I. Comments by the Board**

Chair Flint made positive remarks about the floating fish collector at Cushman receiving an award from the Outstanding Stewards of American Waters. There will be a formal presentation at the next meeting.

**J. Adjournment**

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. until Wednesday, May 11, 2016, for a study session beginning at 3:00 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:

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Bryan Flint, Chair

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Monique Trudnowski, Secretary