



APPROVED 2-8-17

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
January 25, 2017
6:30 p.m.

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

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

The meeting was quorate.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Ms. Trudnowski moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be adopted; seconded by Mr. Jones. 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

Mr. Paul Schautern made public comments regarding billing concerns he's having at a home at which he's residing but not a legal owner or renter. Steve Hatcher, Customer Services Manager, then accompanied Mr. Schautern to a meeting room in an effort to resolve the issues.

Mark LaRiviere, a retired fisheries biologist with Tacoma Power, made comments in appreciation of TPU's Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) vanpool program. Mr. LaRiviere expressed gratitude that he was able to take advantage of this program for his entire career at Tacoma Power. Chris Gleason, Communication and Media Services Manager, provided background on the CTR program. In 1991 Washington State passed a law requiring compliance with the CTR program and by 1994 TPU was fully complying with the program. The program started with 60 employees and 365 (approximately 26 percent) employees now take part. Since 1998, TPU has won 12 Summit Awards and for the second year in a row received an award from the National Center for Transit Research from the University of South Florida as one of the nation's lead CTR employers.

Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

Regular Agenda

Departmental

D-1 Resolution U-10902 – Award contracts and approve purchases:

1. Increase contract to Asphalt Patch Systems, Inc., for citywide asphalt patching and concrete repair services (\$2,574,000, plus sales tax. Cumulative Total \$4,320,290, plus sales tax);
2. Authorize a master agreement with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to operate and evaluate hatcheries, to monitor the salmonid recovery plan in the Cowlitz River and other activities at the Cushman and Nisqually Hydroelectric Projects (\$33,500,000).

Ms. Trudnowski moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Jones.

Board Member Larkin made positive remarks on item number one for partnering with General Government to obtain pricing efficiencies on the contract and on item number two for the study session briefing and background information.

In response to a Board inquiry, Keith Underwood, Tacoma Power Natural Resources Manager, summarized item number two. Included in this request is authorization for January 2017 through June 2021 expenditures totaling \$33.5M. Approximately \$22.2M is for hatchery operation at Cowlitz; \$9.8M for Cowlitz River monitoring and evaluation including Cowlitz Falls fish facilities; \$350,000 for enforcement; and \$1.1M for kokanee plants. Approval of this master agreement and the accompanying funding will fulfill Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license requirements to operate and evaluate the hatcheries, to monitor the salmonid recovery plan and other activities as mitigation for Tacoma Power's hydroelectric projects. In response to a Board request, Mr. Underwood described how staffing has been retooled in the Power Generation. Generation used to be a geographic based organization and has moved to a skill-based organization that focuses on disciplines to maximize productivity. It is preferred to not have to invest in staff and then shrink staff so backfilling with consultants was deemed the most effective way to manage the work. Staff will continually monitor this staffing strategy and adjust if necessary.

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

D-2 U-10903 – Authorize Tacoma Water to reestablish the Community Outreach Workforce Planning Project for the next two biennia, including employment of up to three project Water Utility Workers.

Ms. Trudnowski moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Jones.

Ray West, Water Distribution Manager, summarized the resolution. The goal of the Tacoma Training and Employment Program is to target low income youth from the Tacoma empowerment zone to learn trades, promote local employment and skill development, and create a workforce that reflects the community. This effort has been in place for 16 years with positive results and continues to be a very successful effort. Tacoma Water has hired a number of successful candidates over past years that have taken the utility worker test and scored high enough to be hired permanently. In support of this program, Tacoma Water has the flexibility to do community outreach to select candidates from the community and provide training and education to allow candidates

to be successful in permanent water utility worker positions with career paths into the future. The maintenance of this project through 2020 will allow current and new staff to continue to gain job experience and training while supporting the workplace planning initiative.

All Board Members made positive remarks in support of the program and thanked Mr. West for his work in administrating the program successfully.

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

D-3 U-10904 – Authorize the real property exchange of approximately 4,157 square feet located along Pipeline 1 in Cumberland between Mr. Ted Coutts and Tacoma Water.

Ms. Trudnowski moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Jones.

Gloria Fletcher, Sr. Real Estate Officer summarized the resolution. Pipeline Number One is located in close proximity to Deep Creek in the unincorporated community of Cumberland in King County. Twenty two feet of the pipeline has been exposed due to stream erosion and is at risk of damage. Rerouting Deep Creek further from the pipe into a new stream channel would provide pipeline protection, restore stream and riparian habitats, and is supported by the regulatory agencies. This approach would also result in substantial savings compared the moving the pipeline. This plan requires the acquisition of a twenty foot strip of property owned by Mr. Coutts. Tacoma Water has agreed to transfer an equal amount of its land that abuts Mr. Coutts' property along with \$10,000 for the relocation of his existing improvements.

In response to a Board inquiry regarding use of the parcel, Greg Volkhardt, Environmental Programs Manager for Tacoma Water, answered that in order to reroute the stream, this land had to be acquired and that this will protect 700 feet of pipeline. Natural streams don't respond well to straight channels and need to meander and this meandering has exposed 20 feet of pipeline and with each storm, more gets exposed. The plan is to move the creek away from the pipeline, build a new channel, and then build a barrier between the pipeline and new stream channel. In response to a Board inquiry regarding natural features, Mr. Volkhardt answered the stream channel will be completely restored with habitat features that fish prefer and native vegetation restoration will take place. Mr. Volkhardt concluded by adding that the regulatory bodies have been updated, permitting is the next step, and staff is currently at sixty percent project design.

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

H. Reports of the Director

There were no reports from the Director.

I. Comments by the Board

Chair Patterson and Ms. Trudnowski made positive remarks about staff's work in support of the executive forum breakfast held on January 18, 2017.

J. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. until Wednesday, February 8, 2017 for a study session beginning at 3:00 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:

Mark Patterson, Chair

Woodrow E. Jones, Jr., Secretary