



APPROVED 12-13-17

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
November 15, 2017
3:00 p.m.

Chair Trudnowski called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:02 p.m. at the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Monique Trudnowski; Woodrow E. Jones, Jr., Bryan Flint, Karen Larkin, Mark Patterson

Tacoma Power: Pole Attachment Fees

Jarrold Fauver, Power Engineer, introduced the topic as follow up to the September 13 presentation on this topic given to the Board. As review, changes to the pole attachment program are being recommended because of telecommunications deployment of a new wireless technology and requests to attach to our poles. Tacoma Power has not updated its wireline pole attachment fees since 2011. Telecommunication industry sponsored small cell legislation was discussed during the 2017 legislative session. Also, there has been recent growth in the number of received wireline applications.

Wireline: Pole attachment fee calculations for wireline were detailed. During the September Board presentation, staff's original recommendation was to eliminate the governmental fee in favor of one fee independent of organization or service type. The current staff recommendation is to maintain the governmental fee based upon the FCC cable formula. For the general fee, staff recommendation is to adopt the state's methodology for calculating this fee. The third recommendation is to increase the base application fee from \$100 to \$175 to better recover administrative costs. Wireline fees for peer utilities were then reviewed by Mr. Fauver.

Wireless: TPU staff has been working with General Government staff to develop contract templates and attachment fees. General Government staff intends to adopt TPU fees. Fees are market based, not cost of service based. Preliminary correspondence with carriers indicates that the rates TPU is proposing are not objectionable. In lieu of fee methodology, fees are set based on the local market. Staff recommendation is to establish fees based on the average of local utilities surveys and to re-evaluate the market in two years and make adjustments as necessary.

Financial impacts were reviewed. Next steps in this process include Board consideration of the wireline contract template, wireless contract template, and pole attachment fee schedule

Executive Session

Board Member Flint moved to convene an executive session at 3:25 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of evaluating the qualifications of applicants for public employment (RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)); seconded by Mr. Jones. Voice vote was taken and carried. The executive session was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:23 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled study session on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Approved:

Approved:

Monique Trudnowski, Chair

Karen Larkin, Secretary