



“Eastsound Water Users Association is a service-oriented association whose goal is to utilize all available resources to ensure that an adequate and consistent supply of safe, reliable, and palatable water is provided to its members”

Eastsound Water Users Association Regular Board Meeting

Orcas Island Fire Hall Public Meeting Room

February 18, 2025

5:30 PM

The meeting was held in person at the Orcas Island Fire Department public meeting room.

Board Members Present: Teri Nigretto, Leith Templin, Mike Cleveland (Zoom), Vaughan Ploeger, Chris Madison, and General Manager, Dan Burke. Absent Mike Speece and Jim Nelson

President Teri Nigretto called the meeting to order at 5:42 (delayed because of room availability)

Additions to Agenda

Finalize Budget (after late fees)

Union discussion (after Wally Gudgell)

Public Comment

Patty Miller encouraged us to look at the OPALCO website for the information they provide and is hoping that EWUA can adopt some of their practices.

Administrative Items

Minute Approval

Motion: Chirs Madison: I move to accept the January 21st, January 29th and February 14, 2025, as presented.

Second: Vaughn Ploeger

Approved: Unanimously

Wally Gudgell Proposal

Wally Gudgell presented his request again for the board to make a variance for his project on Urner Street.

Report on February 14th Executive Session Special Meeting

Teri Nigretto, President reported that we had an Executive Session on February 14th, and she read the summary and the motion that was made when the board returned from the Executive Session.



It is stated in the minutes of the Special Meeting however, she wanted to restate the comment and the motion for the public present at this regular meeting.

The Eastsound Water staff presented the Board of Directors with a request to unionize the majority of our employees this week. Since the process prevents us from engaging directly with the employees at this point, it's our fiduciary responsibility to begin the process to learn more about what it means to unionize for the organizations, our members, and most importantly our valued employees. We're excited to learn more through the NLR board process about how we can best continue to support and enhance our commitments to our employees.

Motion: Chris Madison: I move that we should not voluntarily accept the union at this point, until we have the opportunity to learn more about what our employees are requesting.

Second: Mike Speece

Approved: Unanimously.

There was a short discussion about unionizing but until we have more information, we were unable to continue the discussion.

Member Billing and Late Fees

Motion: Michael Cleaveland: I moved to accept the new late billing fee of \$6

Second: Leith Templin

Passed: Unanimously

Budget

Review of the budget discussion that was held in the February 29th Special Meeting.

Motion: Chris Madison: I move to approve the 2025-2026 budget that was discussed at the January Special Meeting on January 29, 2025

Second: Vaughn Ploeger

Approved: Unanimously

GM Board Report

Dan delivered his report

Highlights:

The new rates have been updated for the February billing cycle, the website rate page updated, references to the By Laws and Operating rules and the membership was emailed to inform them of the rate change.

Dan had a review with staff about how the winter season went. It Seems we made it through this winter with minor incidences.

Clark Well update. We need to move the building site back 10ft because of the discovery of more underground utilities than expected. Dan is working with the county to adjust the plans by 10ft.

Co Bank, we have drawn \$331,000 from our \$1,000,000 loan



The 2024 financials will be completed over the next 30 days. When the year-end financials for 2024 are complete they will be available on the website.

The board directed Dan Burke to respond to Wally Gudgell's request for a variance. EWUA is unable to approve a variance for the Wally Gudgell project on Urner Street.

Next Month meeting topic, Good Neighbor Policy

Teri Nigretto adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm

Next Meeting March 18th at the Orcas Island Fire Hall regular time of 5:00pm (Time change)

Respectfully submitted,
Leith Templin/Secretary