

APPROVED 9-26-18

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Meeting  
September 12, 2018  
6:30 p.m.

Mr. Jones called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Tacoma Public Utilities.

**Present:** Mark Patterson, Woodrow E. Jones, Jr. Christine Cooley, Karen Larkin

**Excused:** Bryan Flint

The meeting was quorate.

**Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Ms. Larkin moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be adopted; seconded by Ms. Cooley. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared adopted.

**Recognitions**

There were no recognitions.

**Comments from the Public**

Mitchell Shook reviewed the July 2018 Click! financials; requested amendment to Click!'s contracts with the Internet Service Providers to allow them to pay a greater percentage; and spoke against public-private partnership agreements for Click!.

Kit Burns spoke in favor of the Board and TPU reconsidering moving toward Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) implementation. Mr. Burns stated he'll submit a public disclosure request later for AMI business case information.

**Consent Agenda**

There were no items on the consent agenda.

**Regular Agenda**

- D-1 Resolution U-11023 – Award contracts and approve purchases:
1. Award contract to Long Painting Company for the painting portions of the Alder Powerhouse pipes, penstocks, and appurtenant structures (\$288,153.65, plus applicable taxes);
  2. Award three-year contract to Coast Rail, Inc., for on-call railroad track maintenance services (\$775,630, plus applicable taxes. Includes option to

- renew for an additional one-year period for a projected contract amount of \$1,034,173, plus applicable taxes);
3. Award five-year contract to Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc., for Positive Train Control equipment currently installed on four locomotives (\$229,673, plus applicable taxes);
  4. Increase contract to Graybar Electrical Company for electrical lighting, data communications and security products, services, and solutions (\$2,500,000; cumulative total \$2,700,000, plus applicable taxes).

Ms. Larkin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Cooley.

In response to a Board request on item number two for information outlining the benefits of contract services for supplemental staff, Kyle Kellem, Road Master, answered that projects in the contract scope are short in duration and require track outages. There wouldn't be a need for more work for months or until heavy maintenance needs are identified. These are not prolonged maintenance assignments.

In response to a Board inquiry on item number four regarding competitive solicitation, Patsy Best, Procurements and Payables Manager, provided background. City-wide contracts were approved in 2016 that were awarded against two master contracts managed by U. S. Communities for electric and telecom data supplies. The bridge contract created will be combining all contract needs under one contract. Competitive solicitation is managed through U. S. Communities cooperative. These are national contracts with competitive pricing considered for use in many utilities and public agencies across the country. The competitive pricing combines different types of commodities that used to be purchased separately. Staff also identified additional items used by TPU warehouses that will increase usage by \$500,000 over previous usage. Staff is comfortable that there was competitive selection and the pricing is the best that can be achieved through this process.

In response to a Board request on item number three to describe Positive Train Control (PTC), Alan Matheson, Assistant Rail Superintendent, shared that PTC is a system of equipment and software that integrates with a locomotive's braking system in case of operator error to help override derailments, collisions, or incursions into work zones. This is the final contractual element for Rail to be compliant with PTC. This will enable Rail to install software on train locomotives so that testing and certification phases can be entered.

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

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

H-1 July 2018 cash projections for Power, Water, Rail

H-2 July 2018 financials for Power, Water, Rail, Fleet, Self-Insurance Fund

Chris Gleason, Community and Media Services Manager, and Joe Rempe, Power Engineer, provided an update on the North 21<sup>st</sup> Street transmission project. The project was to replace 19 aging towers on or near North 21<sup>st</sup> Street with 12 steel poles in the median on every other block. Robust community engagement before, during, and after the project and coordination with General Government road and infrastructure improvements projects in the area were detailed. Board Members made very positive remarks about the successful completion of the project, stakeholder communication, and coordination of projects with the City.

10254 Steve Hatcher, Customer Services Manager, reported on the deployment of the updated PayBoxes, which went live on August 23, 2018. The previous PayBoxes were out of date and had high downtime and maintenance costs. All of the new PayBoxes take cash, check, and debit/credit. There is no fee charged for cards. Customers can now access account information with an account number or by using alternate identifiers. All machines are ADA compliant, have software security, and have Spanish language interfaces. All payments are posted to customer accounts in real time. Since deployment, over 4,000 transactions have been made. Additional information can be found at [www.mytpu.org/paybox](http://www.mytpu.org/paybox). Board Members made positive remarks about this equipment upgrade and improved service.


**I. Comments by the Board**

There were no additional comments made by the Board.

**J. Adjournment**

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. until Wednesday, September 26, 2018 for a study session beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Tacoma Public Utilities, followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Tacoma Public Utilities.

Approved:

  
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Woodrow E. Jones, Jr. Chair

  
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Bryan Flint, Secretary