

Mason County PUD 1
Board of Commissioners Public Hearing- Union Heights
April 15, 2014

Present

Ron Gold- President
Karl Denison- Vice President
Jack Janda- Board Secretary
Steve Taylor- General Manager
Jocelyne Gray – Director of Ops - Water
Kristin Masteller – Dir. of Employee & Public Relations

Public in Attendance

Keith Visser, Greg Texeira, Marina
Sheetz, Donna Iverson

The Union Heights public meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

BUSINESS AGENDA

Discussion of Options to Provide Water During Power Outages

Jocelyne Gray stated that the PUD scheduled this public hearing in response to customer questions, last year at a Union Heights Road Committee meeting and again this year at a board meeting, regarding available options for the Union Heights area customers to receive access to water during power outages. Jocelyne reviewed the history of the communications between the PUD and the Union Heights customers and gave three options for purchasing a remedy to the water outage issue. All three of the options have costs associated with them.

Ron Gold gave a breakdown of the cost per customer if the entire system had to cover the cost of the remedy. While the amount is small, the PUD cannot require customers to pay for the cost unless the board of commissioners makes a formal decision to prioritize it in the six year work plan for the Union Water System. The issue with that is twofold: first is that all 200+ customers would be paying for the fix for 23 customers in Union Heights; secondly, by expending funds to install a generator or other solution, the prioritized capital project list for the water system changes and main line replacement and other projects are pushed back in the budget and schedule. There are customers that are still on a waiting list to connect to the system to be able to develop their properties. Karl Denison stated that his priority would be to spend the money to make the system improvements to connect all customers to the system first and then focus on issues like the water outages during power outages since these instances occur sporadically and for a short amount of time on average.

When discussing fire flow options for the Union Heights area, Steve Taylor and Jocelyne stated that there may be an option to also install a frost free valve and spigot next to the reservoir to allow customers to draw water and fill up buckets for toilet flushing, cooking, hygiene, etc.

Greg Texeira stated that the spigot option seemed the most reasonable especially since the number of hours that the power was out was minimal and did not seem to justify the cost of a standby generator that would only run a few hours a year. He said that others may prefer another solution but they did not bother to attend the public hearing so this option makes the most sense to those in attendance. The other attendees agreed that a spigot would be a

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reasonable accommodation. Jocelyne and Steve will present a staff recommendation to the board at the next regular meeting to move forward with that installation.

Hearing adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Ron Gold, President

Karl Denison, Vice President

Jack Janda, Secretary