

# Portland Utility Board

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 11:00 a.m.  
Virtual meeting using Zoom platform  
Meeting #220

## Attendees

### PUB Members

Lauren Rosenkranz, co-chair  
Kyle Chipman, co-chair  
Darrel Bobb  
Bruk Berhanu  
Joanne Johnson, Ex-Officio

### Absent

Jenny O'Connor\*  
Dr. Myra Khushbakht  
Lorraine Wilson\*  
Cormac Burke\*  
Alexis Rife\*  
Julia DeGraw\*

\*Notice of absence provided before the meeting.

### Staff

Amy Archer-Masters, Portland Utility Board Analyst, City Budget Office  
Jonna Lynn Bransford, Portland Utility Board Coordinator, City Budget Office  
Cecelia Huynh, Water Bureau  
Farshad Allahdadi, Environmental Services

### Public

Carol Cushman, League of Women Voters

## Items Discussed, Action Items, Decisions

### Acronyms & Definitions

In these notes PWB stands for Portland Water Bureau, BES for the Bureau of Environmental Services, DCA for Deputy City Administrator, CSL for Current Service Level, and PUB for the Portland Utility Board.

### Video Recording

The [video of the meeting](#) as well as supporting documents can be found here: <https://www.portland.gov/pub/events/2026/1/15/portland-utility-board-meeting> .

In the below notes the **blue timestamp** indicates the approximate place in the video where a particular topic begins as well as providing a link to that portion of the video. For example, **3:45** indicates that this topic begins at approximately 3 minutes and 45 seconds into the video. Closed captioning is available by clicking on the CC symbol in the lower right side of the video tool bar.

## Meeting Summary

The Portland Utility Board (PUB) held an informal meeting to discuss the upcoming budget cycle and engagement strategies with City leadership. The meeting was run as an informal discussion due to lack of quorum. No decisions were made or votes held.

## Call to Order

Lauren Rosenkranz, PUB co-chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:12, noting that the PUB did not have quorum and would not be able to convene as a decision-making body. The meeting proceeded as an internal discussion with information sharing.

## Disclosure of Communications

Disclosures were not requested due to lack of quorum.

## Public Comment

Although the meeting did not run as an official meeting, members of the public were offered an opportunity to give public comment. No comments were provided.

## Review of Minutes

Minutes were not discussed due to lack of quorum. January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were distributed and can be accepted at the next official PUB meeting.

## Brief Updates [4:41](#)

### Co-chair appointment

Co-chair term is ending on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, so another appointment is needed. Could be the same person or a different voting member. A description of the role was distributed prior to the meeting. The current occupant of the role offered to make space within leadership for other members, but expressed willingness to potentially continue in the role if no other member wishes to volunteer. PUB staff will follow up with PUB after the meeting to check in about interest, with intent to identify nominee(s) by January 22, 2026 so that names can be noticed publicly ahead of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### Transportation Fee Discussion

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee discussed revenue-raising options again, expressing some level of support for a potential transportation fee applied to the Utility Bill. Details of what the fee structure would look like are not yet available, but PUB staff will continue to monitor and will bring information back to PUB as it becomes available.

### City Budget for Current Fiscal Year

The revenue shortfall for this year is bigger than anticipated (by between \$22.5-\$26.5 million). While this impacts general fund bureaus more profoundly, it also indirectly impacts utilities. The shortfall is driven by

- Revenue reductions of approximately \$13.6 million;

- Lower than anticipated savings from vacancies, projected at \$8–\$10 million; and
- Lower-than-expected savings from core functional realignment processes, estimated at \$1–\$3 million.

## PUB Internal Work - Budget and Leadership Engagement 9:51

PUB members used this time to strategize about how to utilize upcoming meetings, as well as to clarify upcoming opportunities for engagement. Cut packages will not be available before the February 3<sup>rd</sup> PUB meeting, so PUB may use that time to focus on their longer-term strategic goals, while leaving space to respond quickly to emerging budget updates. Board members discussed the importance of timely engagement with Council, while recognizing the challenges of committee schedules not having been released yet and other potential changes coming from Council in the new year.

Members identified key talking points around affordability, equity, and the impact of budget cuts on services. They also discussed the need to prepare written and verbal testimony for any upcoming work sessions or opportunities for engagement. In terms of upcoming engagement, PUB discussed two potential avenues for testimony:

- Committee presentations in February and March (see budget dates in figure 1 below). They emphasized the importance of having draft talking points ready for these occasions, focusing on equity and the impact of budget reductions on core services. The board also touched on the need to maintain a community-based lens in their engagement with city council.
- Utility rate review (likely April 15<sup>th</sup>) as an opportunity to provide testimony. However, at that late date, it becomes more likely that leadership will have made decisions that are not as easy to impact. For that reason, the utility rate review might serve as an opportunity to talk about bigger picture items, like deferred maintenance and equity, that PUB wants to elevate more generally – whether in the current budget process or in the future.

Table 1 Budget Dates

Budget Events	Dates*
Current service level (CSL) budgets due	January 23, 2026
Budget reduction concepts due	February 9, 2026
City Council Work Sessions on CSL, forecasts, & bureau budgets by program	February 2026 (date TBD)
Committee/Council presentations on budget information by service area	February 23 – March 6
Council work session(s) on budget cuts and revenue options	March 9-20
Utility rate review – first reading & hearing	April 15, 2026
Mayor’s proposed budget document	April 20, 2026
Mayor’s message and hearing on City budget	April 21, 2026

Mayor’s message and hearing on budget & proposed budget work session	April 21, 2026*
Optional Approved Budget Work Session(s)	April 22nd - May 14th
Council action to approve budget – first & second reading	June 10, June 17
	*Some dates are subject to change

**Announcements & Next PUB Meeting**

- ARC meeting volunteers needed through June 2026.
- PUB Leadership Team meeting to be scheduled in February/March
- Co-chair appointment – outgoing co-chair is happy to make space for another voting member to step into the role, but did express willingness to continue if another member does not wish to step into the role. Both co-chairs expressed their willingness to discuss the role with interested members.

**Closing**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm**

**The next meeting will be February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.**

Possible topics

- Carryover from this meeting
- Co-chair appointment
- Recruitment

Likely future topics

- Budget Concepts
- Filtration Panel Update
- Budget Development

Potential Future Topics: Carryover from prior meetings, Natural Resources Service Delivery, Permitting reorganization update, strategic & equity plans updates. STEP, PCEF updates, filtration update.