

PUD buys potential substation site

by Nevonne McDaniels

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WENATCHEE — The Chelan County PUD Commission voted on Monday to buy 3 acres next to Chumstick Highway in Leavenworth from John and Wendy Fishburne.

The property, at 10381 Chumstick Highway, has been added to what is now a list of three potential sites for a new substation.

PUD General Counsel Erik Wahlquist described the purchase as “preserving an option for a possible location.” The purchase price is \$450,000. The deal is expected to close by May 26.

“PUD commissioners have not made a final decision on the location for a new substation,” said Kimberlee Craig, PUD spokeswoman.

The other two sites have not been purchased. One location, listed as “preferred” by city officials, is on property across Chumstick Highway, between the highway and Titus Road. It is owned by Upper Valley MEND, a nonprofit group that operates a food bank, affordable housing and health care services. The third site, near the junction of North Road and Chumstick Highway, is owned by the city of Leavenworth. Both the city and Upper Valley MEND have been described previously as “willing sellers.”

The detailed analysis of all three sites continues. Staff is expected to make a recommendation on a final site in June, Craig said.

The PUD started looking for a substation site in 2015. The current substation next to the fire station is nearing capacity. Officials hope to build and energize the new substation by 2020.