

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 9, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Utility Board of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted Airport Conference Room - Hastings Municipal Airport - 3300 W. 12th Street, on November 9, 2023.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Bill Hitesman, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Scott Snell, Kevin Johnson, Larry Fox, Tony Hermann, Karl Block, Erik Nielsen, Kirk Layton, Noel Nienhueser, Brandan Lubkin, Lee Vrooman, Roger Nash, Derek Zeisler, Lori Hartman, Keith Leonhardt, Shawn Hartmann, Jesse Oswald, Butch Eley, and Micah McCaffery.
Absent: Corey Stutte, Shawn Metcalf, and Jeanette Dewalt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Bill Hitesman led the group in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR November 9, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Hemje and seconded by Meeske to adopt the current agenda for November 9, 2023. Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Hemje, Meeske, Snell. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute Section 84-1412, the public is advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible written material which will be discussed at today's meeting is located at the back of the Conference Room. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Airport Conference Room, which is accessible to members of the public.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

The weather is changing again. Turn your heaters on and keep warm. If there is anyone struggling with their bills, contact the Utilities. They will work with people who need help.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Really likes the new layout of the new bill.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of October 12, 2023.

Moved by Meeske and seconded by Hemje to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 12, 2023. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Hemje, Meeske, Snell. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

- (b) Production

- (c) Operations

i. Heartwell Infrastructure Progress

Noel gives updates on the Heartwell Infrastructure.

Temporary Power

- Has been established to the railcar area
- Heartwell changed for the larger area
- Heartwell contractors installing conduits and pads for multiple transformers
- Repurposing some theater district transformers

Feeders

- Feeder 273 extended East and ties into WEC
- Ability to now feed 244 from 273

- Feeder 244 and 273 run parallel on West side of WEC
- Either feeder can provide temporary service when pads are in

WEC Substation

- Bus complete to air switch
- Welded into West 115KV WEC bus
- Majority of Concrete work complete

Set to open in fall of 2024.

ii. Lead Service Replacements & Funding Update

Brandan gives updates on Lead service replacements and funding updates.

Early Planning

- Committee to discuss aging and infrastructure mid 2020.
 - Main break history, main age, main material, main size/fire flow, lead services
- Committee determined main size to be highest priority for replacement.
 - Generally Impactful, About 70% of lead and unknown water services connected to smallest mains (4").

City Code Consideration

- Shared liability of residential and commercial customers 1.5" or less.
- Liability expanded to include all lead water services in 2022.
 - New language gives us the authority to replace lead on private property.

Personnel and Equipment

- Lack of contractor availability/affordability/loan compliance drivers for own crew.
 - New 2-person crew: Journeyman Plumber & Equipment Operator
 - New Directional Drill, Excavator, Trailer, Trench boxes, Tools, etc.
 - HU electrical staff to re-ground residential electrical systems.

Loan and Compliance

- Federal Funds from 2021 Infrastructure Bill to the States
- Entered SRF loan agreement with NDEE and started/tried to do compliant work starting March 1, 2023.
- NDEE has been understanding for beginner's error and is learning too.
- HU "jumped in" because we were/are replacing lead services with or without aid in funding. It's part of our infrastructure plan.

Progress and Disbursements

- Crew has replaced 88 services since we started the program. Goal of 3 per week.
- Disbursement request on loan for work from March 1st - July 31st, waiting on some answer from EPA.
- Goal is to produce disbursement requests biannually.

iii. Electric Production Capacity Options & Winter Utilization of Units 4 & 5

Micah to discuss the Electric Production Capacity Options & Winter Utilization of Units 4 and 5.

Electric Production

- WEC 1 Outage - Complete
 - WEC 1 online - Saturday November 4th
 - Transfer Tower recontrol is finished
 - Pulverizer maintenance - ongoing
 - Boiler tube replacement is finished
 - Reroute fuel oil and water lines is finished.
- WEC 2 Outage
 - WEC 2 outage - Scheduled to end December 1st.
 - Pond liner project is ongoing
 - Generator overhaul is ongoing
 - Boiler repairs are ongoing
 - Air heater basket replacement is finished
 - Pulverizer maintenance is ongoing.
 - Protective relay replacement is ongoing
- NDS 4 & 5 outage
 - Winterization and winter testing preparation is ongoing. Scheduled to take place in December.
 - Unit 4 turbine alignment will take place in December.
 - DCS updates - Later winter to spring
 - Service Water line replacement is ongoing.
 - Boiler chemical and blowdown line replacement is finished.

iv. Electric Production Fall Outage Update

Derek talks more about units 4 and 5.

Reminds about the capacity levels.

We did complete capacity deals with Superior.

(d) Administration

(e) Other

4. Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).

Motion to go into closed session at 9:42 am. Motioned by Snell, seconded by Meeske. Ayes: Hitesman, Hemje, Meeske, Snell. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. Approved.

Going into closed session to discuss Real Estate.

Motioned by Snell and seconded by Meeske to come out of the closed session at 10:17 am. Ayes: Hitesman, Hemje, Meeske, Snell. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. Approved.

ADJOURN:

Motioned to adjourn by Meeske, seconded by Hemje. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Hemje, Meeske, Snell. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. Adjourned at 10:18 am.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary