

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 9, 2025

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 January 9, 2025.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Jeanette Dewalt, Mark Hemje, Susan Meeske, Scott Kvols, Derek Zeisler, Erik Nielsen, Kirk Layton, Jason Redding, Jaci Higgins, Micah McCaffery, Noel Nienhueser, Karl Block, Larry Fox, Kyle Patten, Lori Hartman, Mark Funkey, Jay Beckby, JesseOswald

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 January 9, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Meeske and seconded by Hemje to adopt the current agenda for January 9, 2025. Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. 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:

We have a few topics we would like to bring to the boards attention. There will be nothing to vote on. Happy New year.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

None

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 December 12, 2024.

Dewalt, Hemje all yes

Moved by Dewalt and seconded by Hemje to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 12, 2024. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: None. Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

- i. EV Grant Status

Jaci to briefly discuss where we are on the Electric Vehicle (EV) Grant Status. We were able to get a little over \$70,000.

We are currently in the review process and hoping to get a bid out soon. All of the local dealers are involved as well as others.

Where will the charging stations be? The charging stations will be in the sub station shop.

We tried an electric vehicle in the past. This is a good fit and good time to try this again.

- (b) Production

- (c) Operations

- i. December 18th Outage Review

Had an incident that occurred on December 18th that caused a power outage. Noel goes over standard procedures for emergency response and the time line of this accident.

Automobile Accident 12/18/24.

- Feeder 206 cycled 3 times and locked out at 17:49
 - Received a personal call from a NDOR employee who was shopping at 17:53 that the Menards/Walmart area was dark
 - While on the phone with the NDS Control Room, 911 called that lines were down on 42nd and 281 on a car with people trapped inside
 - 1 Line Crew of 2 was already in on the way to another small issue. They were redirected arriving at 18:00. Another crew of 2 called in along with a Substation's Employee.
 - Process for an automobile accident
 - Make the scene electrically safe for the victims and First Responders
 - Assess the damage
 - Plan next steps. Repair/Temporary Fix/Bypass/Combination
 - After the initial crew report, and the scene is made safe, 2 more Line Crew were called in.
 - A Tail Gate conference was held to create a restoration plan and Address Scene Safety for repair
 - The downed area was cut free on both sides, it will need full replacement and new underground to the West
 - West broken pole is a major junction. It will be temporarily repaired in place.
 - Line Crews made the necessary repairs at the scene
 - Substations prepped isolations and back-feed of power from East and South
 - Hastings Fire Department stayed on site. Addressing traffic control on 281 and removal of the vehicle. Final 2 Officers left when power was restored.
 - Feeder 206 Restored at 20:16. All customers restored at 20:40
 - Permanent repairs began Thursday 12/19/25 with 2 poles and pipe
 - New underground was installed on 12/23/24
 - Area was returned to the "normal" configuration 12/26/24
 - Service tickets for call in work, repair labor, and all materials used are compiled and turned over to Accounting for Insurance reimbursement. Approximately 230 regular hours and 30 hour of overtime.
- We had 34 poles that were taken out in the year of 2024.

(d) Administration

i. Discussion on Postings and Late Fees

Karl discusses Postings and Late Fees.

Billing Process Timelines

- Bill Produced - Day 1 (customer connect accounts receive notice that their bill has been produced)
- Delinquent Date - 15 Business Days after mailing date
- Delinquent Letter - 3 Business days after delinquent date
- Posting Notice - Day before shut-off
- Shut-off Date - 8 Business days after delinquent date (phone calls are made to accounts if we have contact information)

Let's Talk about Postings

- Final notice provided day before shut-off
- Delivered to the customer's door
- Additional phone calls are made to customers

- No other peer utilities do postings
- Possible new options available
- Timeline for new options

Yearly Stats

- Customer Charge
 - * Delinquent notice - \$0
 - * Posting - \$25
 - * Shut-off - \$75
- Posting charges billed - 2022-24 Average - \$128,958
- Shut-off/Limit Charges Billed - 2022-24 Average - \$75,125

Late Fee Projection Study

- What is happening around the state in our peer group?
 - * Grand Island - 3% of Electric
 - * Fremont - 10% (\$10 Max)
 - * LES - 3% of total bill
 - * North Platte - 1.333% of total bill
 - * OPPD - 4% of total bill
 - * NPPD - 3% of total (\$15 minimum)
- Hastings Average Bill Amount - \$204.29

How do we go about updating contact information? We are moving forward that we review the information when we have contact with the customer. We now require phone number when setting up services.

For customers that are having difficulties with bills, please contact customer service because we do have ways to help.

(e) Other

i. OMS Update

IT has been working on a system that we are getting close to implementing. Kirk goes over the Outage Management System (OMS).

Survallent OMS

- What is the OMS
- Benefits of the system
- Where are we today

Defining some terms

- SCADA- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

- Used for controlling, monitoring, and analyzing our electrical network.
- Transformers, breakers, switches, etc...
- This is how our employees monitor our electrical grid.
- Using this system to make sure power to Hastings is on, stable, and reliable.
- Does not affect anything inside the customer's home

- GIS - Geographic Information System

- Maps created and maintained by the city that documents the location and connections to our electric, water, gas, and sewer networks.

- Electric – Information and location of things like
 - * Transformers, Switches, Breakers, meters, etc...
 - * Documents how all these devices are connected together
 - * If a transformer goes down, we can tell what customers would be affected thanks to the GIS map
- Water, Gas, and Sewer depts have respective maps they utilize as well

* Documenting the location of things like fire hydrants, what pipes are connected to those hydrants, what size of pipe that is connected.

- Critical to the Outage Management System because it uses the data that it provides to pinpoint where electrical outages occur and what is affected by that outage
- It can tell all of that because it has already been mapped out in our GIS.

- Smart Meters

- Electric Meters installed at the customers location
- "Smart" function can tell us if that meter is powered on/off, if it's connected or not.
- We can remotely connect or disconnect those meters without having to dispatch a technician to manually do those tasks.

Outage Management System (OMS) What is it?

- Comprehensive solution that helps utilities reduce the scale and duration of outages
- This is done through integrations with our current SCADA, GIS, and Smart meter systems
- Can help pinpoint outages based on info received from those integrated systems.
- Can help coordinate outages more efficiently due to increased visibility in multiple systems
- Will only be utilized for our electric system and customers at this time.

OMS Benefits

- It utilizes the existing systems that are already in place
- Greatly improve response times
- Gives us a better picture of the impact outages have on our customers without having to navigate to multiple systems
- Create tickets and tasks for our line crews to go out and fix devices that have gone down
- Wholistic view of our electrical network
 - All the connections have been documented and imported from the GIS
- There will be a new outage portal for our customers
 - One stop shop for electrical outages and updates
- Outages will be dynamically displayed on that new outage portal providing citizens with quicker updates
- We can provide short updates to outages on the new outage portal
 - Could be ETOR, Truck is on the way, any message we think would benefit the public to know about
 - Citizens don't have to wait on hold for updates on outages from the city
 - Allows our technicians to better focus on resolving the outage
 - Doesn't take away to the option to speak to someone about an outage

Where are we at now?

- All systems for the OMS are currently up and running
- Working through some final touches and training to begin using the system
- Looking to finish testing and fully utilize this system by March 1st.

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

ADJOURN:

Motioned to adjourn by Kvols, seconded by Meeske. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Hemje, Meeske, Kvols. Nays: None. Absent: None. Adjourned at 10:01 am.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary