

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 12, 2026

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 February 12, 2026.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Jeanette Dewalt, Scott Kvols, Susan Meeske, Derek Zeisler, Steve Huntley, Larry Consbruck, Erik Nielsen, Shane Stone, Karl Block, Jaci Higgins, Noel Nienhueser, Kyle Patten, Tony Herrman, Jason Redding, Brandan Lubken, Larry Fox, Mark Funkey, Jesse Oswald, Lori Hartman, Roger Nash.
Absent: Jay Beckby, Regg Rutt

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 February 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Meeske, Second by Dewalt to adopt the current agenda for the February 12, 2026, regular meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Jeanette Dewalt, Scott Kvols, Susan Meeske. Nays: None. Absent: Regg Rutt. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. 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 Council Chambers. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers which is accessible to members of the public.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

We have a few items that everyone can look forward to in future meetings. We are finishing up the solar ITC refund process for solar phase II. Appreciate everyone's help. We do have the potential option to do a solar phase III. it has been taken out of the budget. If we were to get this project moving, we will run some numbers and have discussions and run through the board meetings before a final decision is made. Discussions with nuclear are still ongoing. It will probably be another 10 years away, maybe longer for us. Budget process is right around the corner. We will give baselines on where we are and where we plan to go. If there are any changes that you would like to see, contact Derek.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Agreed with Derek's comments.

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 11, 2025.

Moved by Kvals, seconded by Dewalt to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 11, 2025. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Kvals, Meeske. Nays: None. Absent: Rutt. Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

i. Status of Monthly Financials

Everyone should be receiving the monthly financials as they are finished. Larry and Roger are here to answer any questions you may have.

Larry and Roger go over the status and updates of these. They felt like the audit went very well. The numbers will be discussed and presented at the March 12th meeting. Dewalt had some questions about the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, but was a little late getting information to Larry. He will get back on those.

Hitesman asks how the income vs spending will go with such a mild winter. Costs of items and materials are going up. How is that going to impact next year?

The electric side helps balance things out. Utilities generate and we are also a customer. When pricing is low, but when we are buying for city load, it is also low. We are always looking for ways to be more efficient.

- (b) Production

(c) Operations

(d) Administration

i. At Your Service Rate Comparison Review

Jaci discusses "At your Service Rate" comparisons. These will be in everyone's monthly bill. These will also be forwarded on to all board members. This will be brought up again during budget season.

This is included in all the February bills.

ii. Water and Sewer Cost of Service Studies Status

Kyle discusses the Water and Sewer Cost of Service Study

- RFPs went out to 2 vendors. Both responded.
- Contracts have been informally awarded to JK Energy Consulting
- Tiered water rates will be part of the study.
- kickoff meeting will be February 17th.
- Tentative presentation to Utility Board June 11th
- Tentative presentation to City Council June 22nd.

What do you see with the water rates? With the study coming in, will there be other options to help lower that or do you see rates going up again? It is too early to say. We will be looking at subsidies.

iii. Late Fee Ordinance Final Discussion Before Draft

Karl discusses customer service and late ordinances.

- 2025 was when we moved from the old billing system to the new billing system. There were some issues in the beginning, but they are working them out.

Karl discussed the Yearly Stats for shut-off and delinquent notices. Late Fee Projection Study and what is happening around the state in our peer group.

Additional Information: Review of due date/delinquent date—timing of the late fee.

Including the ability to waive late fees when working with agencies—other situations when working with customers. Timeline on implementation.

(e) Other

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

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by Kvols, second by Meeske. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewlt, Kvols, Meeske. Nays: None. Absent: Rutt. Adjourned at 9:34 am.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 11, 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 December 11, 2025.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Scott Kvolz, Susan Meeske, Regg Rutt. Derek Zeisler, Erik Nielsen, Steve Huntley, Shane Stone, Jaci Higgins, Micah McCaffery, Mackenzie Pallangyo, Brandan Lubken, Mark Funkey, Karl Block, Kyle Patten, Larry Consbruck, Lori Hartman, Jesse Oswald, Noel Nienhueser, Lee Vrooman, Jason Redding, Roger Nash, Larry Fox, Tony Herrman.
Absent: Jeanette Dewalt, Jay Beckby

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 December 11, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Kvolz, Second by Rutt to adopt the current agenda for the December 12, 2025 regular meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Scott Kvolz, Susan Meeske, Regg Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: Jeanette Dewalt. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, December 9, 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:

A few announcements. Watch for space heaters as it gets colder. Share the warmth is in full swing. Would like to officially announce that Shane Stone has accepted the Director of Administration position.

We will likely be canceling the January meeting. We will send out an official notice. Brandan gives an announcement about the video footage of the sewer inspection. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Bill thanks the water and sewer department for what they do. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone as well.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

Susan would like to thank the utility employees that helped put out the Holiday decorations around the fountain.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of November 13, 2025.

Moved by Meeske and seconded by Kvals to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 13, 2025. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Kvals, Meeske, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

i. End of Year 24-25 Summary

Jaci updates everyone on the end of year summary.

Financial and Operating Report Fiscal year 2024-2025.

Electric Department — Additional revenue through increased usage, rate increase, and increased SPP sales (generation) in FY25 compared to FY24.

Gas Department — Reduction in expenses due to retirements and time charged for the highway project. The rate increase is in effect for FY25.

Water Department — Revenue strongly tied to precipitation, so it can vary. The rate increase is in effect for FY25. A decrease in the operating expense was minimal issues with operating wells. One well repair can be almost \$100k.

Sewer Department — The main contributor to the decrease in revenue for FY25 compared to FY24 is a decrease in the contamination surcharges. The large increase in net position is due to transferred lift station.

- (b) Production

(c) Operations

i. Conservation Plan Update

Brandan gives an update on the conservation plan that he gave a presentation on last month. We have 16 volunteers so far. We will remind everyone at the end of winter. We have three parks that may be participating in this as well. Tony Herrman did email everyone the contract and information regarding all of this. To begin, we are only doing internal. After our one-year pilot, we may be opening to the public.

(d) Administration

i. Contract to Transfer Renewable Energy Certificates to the City of Hastings between COH and WAPA.

Shane goes over the agreements that will need approved to go to city council.

Kvols motions to approve the transfer renewable contract 25-UGPR-146 and 12-UGPR-1029 to go to council. Seconded by Meeske.

Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Kvols, Meeske, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. Approved.

ii. Amendment to Contract fro Firm Electric Service to the City of Hastings, Revision 1 to Exhibit B, and Revision 1 to Exhibit C, between COH and WAPA.

Shane goes over the revisions between COH and WAPA that they made on their end.

Kvols motions to approve revisions on contract 12-UGPR-1029 to go to council. Seconded by Rutt.

Rool call: Ayes: Hitesman, Kvols, Meeske, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. Approved

(e) Other

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

ADJOURN:

Motioned to adjourn by Meeske, seconded by Rutt. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Kvols, Meeske, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: Dewalt. Adjourned at 9:45 am.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary



HASTINGS UTILITIES

Utility Board Meeting
December 2025



Financial and Operating Report

Fiscal Year 2025 Oct 24-Sept25
December 2025

Electric Department

	FY2024 Q4	FY2025 Q4	FY2025 Budget	Percent of Budget
Operating Revenue	\$52,478,980	\$60,177,632	\$59,902,397	100%
Operating Expenses	\$53,322,968	\$55,398,999	\$57,701,133	96%
Net change before Other Inc/Exp	(\$4,951,943)	\$477,930	(\$2,537,736)	
Net Change in Financial Position	(\$1,135,218)	\$5,245,968	\$3,205,309	

- Additional revenue through increased usage, rate increase, and increased SPP sales (generation) in FY25 compared to FY24

Gas Department

	FY2024 Q4	FY2025 Q4	FY2025 Budget	Percent of Budget
Operating Revenue	\$10,107,324	\$10,422,217	\$10,279,600	101%
Operating Expenses	\$9,460,892	\$9,916,588	\$10,894,241	91%
Net change before Other Inc/Exp	\$543,127	\$342,820	(\$754,641)	
Net Change in Financial Position	\$1,298,155	\$1,877,417	(\$503,475)	

- Reduction in expenses due to retirements and time charged to the highway project
- Rate increase in effect for FY25

Water Department

	FY2024 Q4	FY2025 Q4	FY2025 Budget	Percent of Budget
Operating Revenue	\$7,498,733	\$8,290,766	\$8,611,630	96%
Operating Expenses	\$5,581,342	\$5,214,085	\$5,485,525	95%
Net change before Other Inc/Exp	\$1,131,594	\$2,167,108	\$2,202,105	
Net Change in Financial Position	\$1,929,021	\$2,976,176	\$2,742,753	

- Revenue strongly tied to precipitation so it can vary; Rate increase in effect for FY25
- A decrease in the operating expenses was minimal issues with operating wells
 - One well repair can be almost \$100k

Sewer Department

	FY2024 Q4	FY2025 Q4	FY2025 Budget	Percent of Budget
Operating Revenue	\$7,774,201	\$6,708,015	\$7,363,747	91%
Operating Expenses	\$4,690,385	\$4,244,084	\$4,424,545	96%
Net change before Other Inc/Exp	\$1,301,328	\$601,720	\$1,056,202	
Net Change in Financial Position	\$1,633,663	\$3,059,969	\$1,383,519	

- Main contributor for a decrease in revenue for FY25 compared to FY24 is a decrease in the contaminate surcharges
- The large increase in net position is due to a transferred lift station

Cash Summary

	FY24 Sept 30 Actual	FY25 Forecast Mar 31	Cash Sept25 Actual
Electric	\$12,183,343	\$13,253,238	\$13,517,300
Gas	\$13,226,348	\$13,680,548	\$13,603,418
Water	\$2,801,288	\$4,226,787	\$4,301,053
Sewer	\$3,906,464	\$534,874	\$1,238,257



Area Utility Rate Comparisons

Hastings Utilities staff members collected rates from several other communities around Nebraska.

The Hastings Utilities average billing amounts listed here represent rates that recently went into effect. The employees of Hastings Utilities are committed to continued efforts to provide customers with the reliable services they expect at a competitive price.

Rate increases in Hastings are based on past cost-of-service studies.

To provide continuity among the communities, these totals use the same, common measurements and consumption amounts:

Electric: 960 kwh-summer, 640 kwh-winter

Gas: 13 ccf-summer, 75 ccf-winter

Water: 6 ccf and 5/8 inch meter (w/o irrigation)

Sewer: 6 ccf

ELECTRIC RATES

The Hastings Utilities electric rates include a 5% Cost of Service rate increase for the current fiscal year.

Hastings has an energy cost per kilowatt hour of 10.33 cents. Lower than the Nebraska average of 13.1 cents.

GAS RATES

This comparison is based on average residential usage, using a volumetric measurement of ccf (hundred cubic feet). These prices include all purchase gas adjustments and distribution charges. Hastings Utilities gas rates include a 6.3% increase.

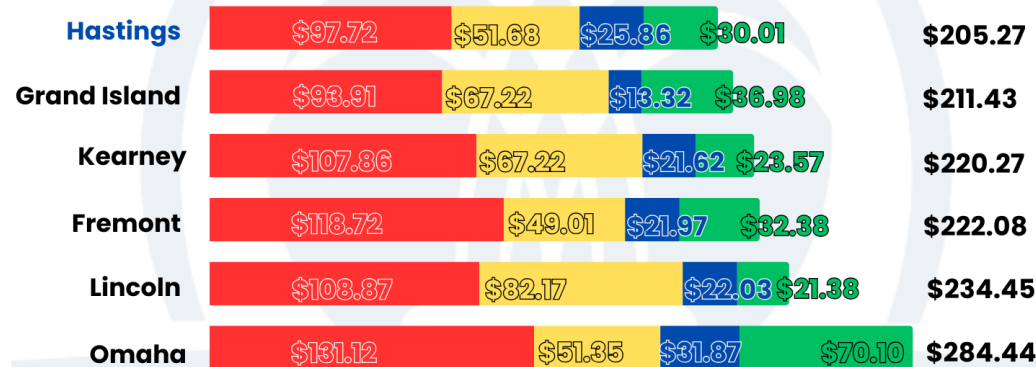
WATER RATES

One ccf (hundred cubic feet) equals 748 gallons of water. Hastings Utilities water rates include a 5% increase. This increase helps support water main and lead water service replacement programs.

SEWER RATES

Hastings Utilities sanitary sewer rates remain unchanged for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Rate comparisons with other Nebraska utilities effective January 2026

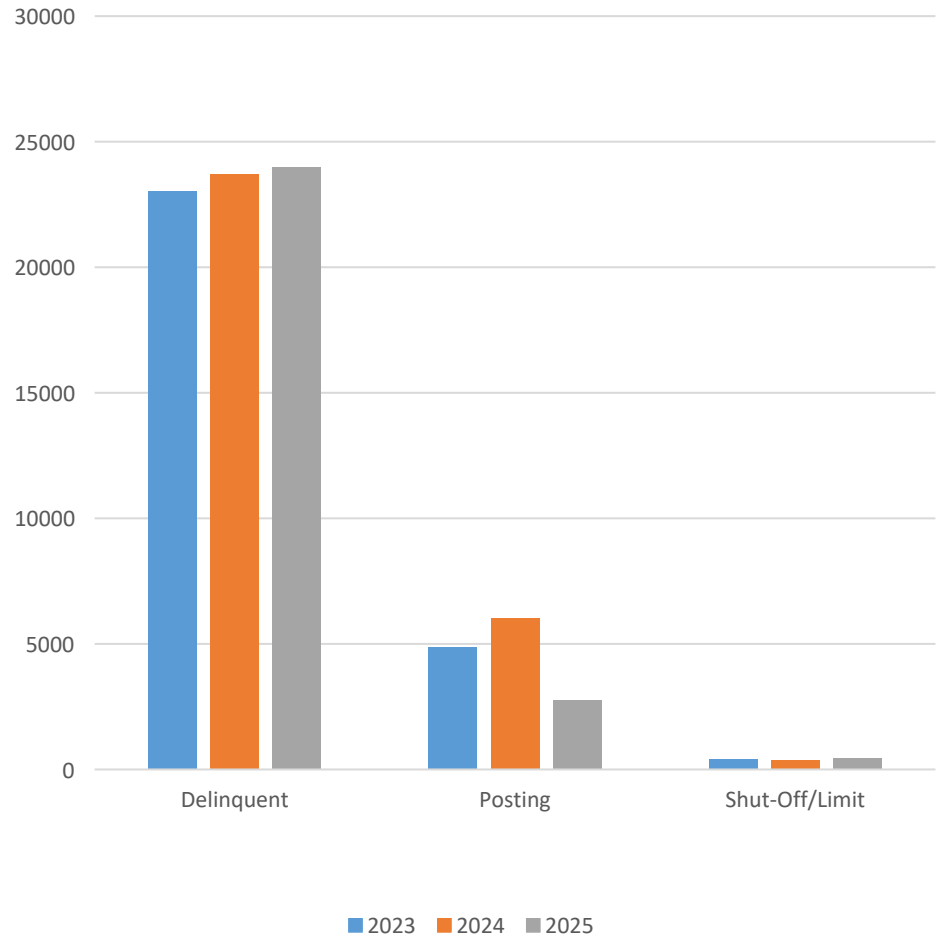


Water & Sewer Cost of Service Study

- RFPs went out to 2 vendors, both responded
- Contracts have been informally awarded to JK Energy Consulting
- Tiered Water rates will be part of the study
- Kickoff meeting will be February 17th
- Tentative presentation to Utility Board June 11th
- Tentative presentation to City Council June 22nd

Yearly Stats

	2023	2024	2025
Delinquent	23049	23711	24003
Posting	4883	6046	2766
Shut-Off/Limit	427	390	453



Customer Charge –
 Delinquent Notice – \$0.00
 Shut-off – \$50.00

HU Cost Analysis
 Delinquent Letter – \$17,186.15
 (\$0.716)

Late Fee Projection Study

What is Happening Around the State in our Peer Group?

Grand Island – 3% of Electric

Fremont – 10% (\$10.00 Max)

LES – 3% of Total Bill

North Platte – 1.333% of Total Bill

OPPD – 4% of Total Bill

NPPD – 3% of Total (\$15.00 Minimum)

Southern Power – 2% of Total (\$10.00 Minimum)

Average Residential Bill Amount – \$201.04

	Single Bill Delinquent Fee	Total Delinquents Jan-Dec 2025
Projected 3% Fee	\$6.03	\$144,766.89

Bill Amount		Delinquent Fee
\$100	3%	\$3
\$200	3%	\$6
\$300	3%	\$9
\$500	3%	\$15

*Peer Group Data collected in 2025

Additional Information

- Review of Due Date / Delinquent Date
 - Timing of the Late Fee
- Include Ability to Waive Late Fees when Working with Agencies
 - Other Situations When Working with Customers
- Timeline on Implementation?