

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 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 March 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, Regg Rutt. Derek Zeisler, Jaci Higgins, Brandan Lubken, Larry Consbruck, Erik Nielsen, Larry Fox, Micah McCaffery, Noel Neinhueser, Steve Huntley, Kyle Patten, Karl Block, Jesse Oswald. Absent: Susan Meeske, Jay Beckby, Mark Funkey

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 March 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.

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

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

Wanted the Board to know that we are still looking for potential generation sources for the future. We are investigating what Phase III of our solar farm would look like. Good news is that Hastings sits on more capacity than what we need.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Willis Hunt speaks his opinion about city growth and utilities.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of February 12, 2026.

Moved by Dewalt, seconded by Kvols to approve the minutes for the meeting of February 12, 2026. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Kvols, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: Meeske. Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

- i. Virtual Audit Presentation from AMGL.

We have Marci from AMGL on video conference, and she walks through the Utility audit with us.

- ii. Q1 Financial Update

Jaci discusses the fiscal year 2026 quarter one financial and operating report.

Electric Department — Payment in Lieu of Tax moved to a dividend fee and is reflected in a decrease in revenue and expenses. Longer than normal fall outage (compliance driven) leading to less generation and higher expenses, making the most of the long outage.

Gas Department — Payment in Lieu of Tax moved to a dividend fee and is reflected in a decrease in revenue and expenses. Very mild fall with low gas usage. Mild fall allows for an "extended" construction season.

Water Department — Payment in Lieu of Tax moved to a dividend fee and is reflected in a decrease in revenue and expenses. Wet late summer into fall, reducing the usage for yard watering.

- (b) Production

- (c) Operations

i. Water Outages Update

There have been some water main breaks the past few weeks.

We are not sure if it is the reason for the water main breaks, but on March 1st we had a 4.1 magnitude earthquake that happened 30 miles south of Hastings.

Tuesday, March 3rd at 3 am, we had a water main break on the intersection of 13th and Baltimore. Thank you to the utilities dispatch for catching it so quickly.

- Impacted about 27 customers. Got back up at 7 pm

March 6, 4 pm, water main break on D and Emerson. Had to cut the valve out and put in a new structure. Wanted to thank the neighbor that gave the workers sandwiches at 2 am. They finished at 4 am.

Special thanks to everyone. Dispatch, police department, locators, and water staff.

ii. PCF Virtual Presentation

Brandan gives a "tour" of the Pollution Control Facility (PCF), Waste water treatment facility.

Pollution Control Facility (PCF)

- Commissioned in 1980 *Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) from 1980 to 2002. *

Trickling filter from 2002 to 2014 * Activated sludge 2014 to present

- 3.4 million gallons per day

Primary Treatment

- Influent raw water is screened to remove debris 1/8" or larger.

- Water portion of waste is pumped once, gravity does the rest.

- Grit removal removes settleable inorganic solids.

- Primary clarification removes settleable organic solids.

Primary Sludge Treatment

- Settleable organic solids from primary clarification transferred continuously to anaerobic digestors.

- Pathogens destroyed and solids digested by anaerobic bacteria. Large organic molecules broken into simpler compounds.

- Byproducts include biogas (40%) and class B fertilizer (60%).

- Biogas (Biosolids Application)

- EPA regulates many biosolids constituents (metals, nitrogen). Annual Biosolids reporting required.

- PCF staff responsible for biosolids land application and field organic loading.

- About 2.5 million gallons per year land applied each year.

Final Treatment (Activated Sludge)

- Microbiological life suspended in solution and provided oxygen to enhance growth.

- Microbes consume remainder of soluble organics leaving clean water.

- Microbial life in activated sludge treatment is diverse and plant specific.

- Aging sludge must be wasted to keep the system productive and healthy.

- Waste activated sludge (WAS) is stored and concentrated on lagoons at PCF.

Trucked to Maxon Lagoons for final disposal.

What's new? - New Digester Covers - RBC Conversion - West Basin Commissioning

What's NExt? - UV Sterilization - Nitrate & Phosphorus Removal - Lagoon Overhaul

(d) Administration

i. Share the Warmth Update

Karl gives an update on Share the Warmth. Will be doing something new that we have not done before. Share the Warmth will be part of the Give Hastings Day on May 7th.

(e) Other

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

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by Dewalt, second by Kvols. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewlt, Kvols, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: Meeske. Adjourned at 10:20 am.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary