

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 9, 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 April 9, 2026.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am in regular session by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Jeanette Dewalt, Scott Kvols, Susan Meeske, Regg Rutt, Derek Zeisler, Jaci Higgins, Erik Nielsen, Shane Stone, Noel Nienhueser, Micah McCaffery, Lee Vrooman, Jeanne Espina, Steve Huntley, Brandan Lubken, Larry Consbruck
Absent: Jay Beckby, Jesse Oswald, and 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 April 9, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Meeske and seconded by Dewalt to adopt the current agenda for the April 9, 2026 Regular Meeting. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Kvols, Meeske, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: None. The motion carried.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, April 7, 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 submitted all the information for Solar Phase II. We are looking into the potential for Solar Phase III.
Jaci introduced Jeanne as the new process financial analyst. She will be helping with budgeting and analytics.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Thank you Jaci for sending out the information for the conference in Boston. If there is an interest in that, please contact Jaci or Derek.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Willis Hunt talks about a discussion that was brought up last year. Next Gen Nuclear. He wants to know what has happened with this after all of the meetings that were held.

- They are waiting on the studies to come back. If we are selected, it will be at least 10 years before we see anything.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

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

Kvols moved, Rutt second to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 12, 2026. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Kvols, Meeske, Rutt. Nays: None. Absent: None.
Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

i. Budget Schedule

Jaci talks about the upcoming budget schedule. This will be similar to the years before. July board meeting will be moved to July 23rd and that will be the first presentation of the budget.

- (b) Production

i. Electric Production Outage

Micah discusses what is happening at WEC.

WEC Spring Outage

- March 20th to May 1st: 7-year turbine overhaul, turbine valve overhaul, bottom ash recirculating system installation

- April 24th to May 8th: Precipitator repairs, coal pulverizer preventative maintenance, B-Circulating water pump repairs

Steam Turbine Overhaul Overview

What is a Steam Turbine? Converts high-pressure, high-temperature steam from the boiler into mechanical energy (rotational shaft power). Drives the electrical generator, turning mechanical energy into electricity. Acts as the central energy conversion step between the boiler (heat source) and generator (power output).

Steam Turbine Overhaul — Planned maintenance activity — 7 year schedule — Restores efficiency and reliability — Prevents unexpected failures.

Why Overhauls are needed? Wear and tear on internal components — Thermal stress and fatigue — Efficiency loss over time — Vibration or performance issues

Disassembly Work — removal of turbine casing — extraction of rotor — dismantling of buckets and seals — tagging and documenting parts — cleaning of components.

Inspections—Common Problems Identified: Blade erosion or damage, seal degradation and steam leakage, bearing wear, rotor imbalance, corrosion and deposits.

Repair and Replacement: Blade repair or replacement, seal and gasket replacement, bearing refurbishment or replacement, rotor balancing, surface cleaning

Reassembly and Alignment: Reinstallation of rotor, proper alignment of shaft and casing, seal installation, clearance verification

Testing and Startup: Startup checks and monitoring, vibration and temperature checks, performance verification, Leak checks.

Benefits of Overhaul: Improved efficiency, extended equipment life, reduced downtime risk, enhanced safety and reliability

(c) Operations

i. Discussion on Live Data in the Field

Noel discusses how the employees are seeing what is going on when they are in the field. The last few years they have gotten tablets so they can see who has power. In the field they have the ability to see what the customers or what customer service puts in during outages. They can clear those and put in notes in the field. They are adding more capabilities to the tables. They are getting what is called Web Serve. Field operation guys have access to see the outage maps so they can respond quicker and restore power.

(d) Administration

i. Sewer Billing Error/Correction

Shane discusses some of the issues we have had with billing and how we are fixing it. Found an issue with the billing software. This is rooted back to the implementation process. This affects the customers that are enrolled in our seasonal sewer exempt billing rates. The majority of those in that class are commercial accounts, some residential. The issue resulted in under billing in approximately 870 customer accounts. The average impact was around \$522. This began on June 1st. We did work with Tyler to find a solution.

(e) Other

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

ADJOURN:

Moved by Dewalt seconded by Meeske there being no further business to adjourn at 10:07 am.
Roll Call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Jeanette Dewalt, Scott Kvols, Susan Meeske, Regg Rutt. Nays:
None. Absent: None. Meeting Adjourned.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary