

STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 17, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

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Location: Edmund T. Malinowski Board Room, Stoughton Utilities Administration Office
600 South Fourth Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin
Optional Virtual Participation: GoToMeeting ID 445-128-965

Members Present: Citizen Member David Erdman (Chair), Alderperson Regina Hirsch, Mayor Tim Swadley, Citizen Member Dustin Thoren (Vice-Chair), Alderperson Joyce Tikalsky

Excused: None

Absent: Alderperson Fred Hundt

Others Present: Tyler Denig, Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director Brian Hoops, Stoughton Utilities & WPPI Energy Service Manager Darren Jacobson, Alderperson Greg Jenson, Stoughton Utilities Finance Manager Shannon Statz, Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss (virtual)

Call to Order: Chairperson Erdman called the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Erdman, Hirsch, and Swadley were present in person. Tikalsky and Thoren were present virtually.

Verification of Quorum: The chair verified that a quorum of the committee membership was present.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: Hoops certified that the meeting had been properly noticed in compliance with open meetings law.

Public Comments: Erdman thanked Tikalsky for her service to the community on the Utilities Committee and Stoughton Common Council.

Utilities Committee Consent Agenda: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Utilities Committee consent agenda items, highlighting National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Swadley discussed the upcoming committee reorganization, mentioning that Alderpersons Greg Jenson and Daniel Payton would be joining the committee, and Carl Chenoweth will fill the vacant citizen member position.

Motion by Hirsch, the motion seconded by Tikalsky, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Draft Minutes of the March 20, 2023 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
- b. Stoughton Utilities Payments Due List Report
- c. Stoughton Utilities Financial Summary – December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023
- d. Stoughton Utilities Statistical Report
- e. Communications

The motion carried unanimously 5 to 0.

Status of the Utilities Committee recommendation(s) to the Stoughton Common Council: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the following items from the Stoughton Utilities Committee that were recently approved and/or placed on file by the Stoughton Common Council:

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Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the February 20, 2022 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
2. Stoughton Utilities Payments Due List Report
3. Stoughton Utilities Statistical Report

Business:

1. Action to Repeal Section 74-5 of the Stoughton Municipal Code, Relating to the Appointment of an Operations Superintendent of Utilities

In addition to the items referred to the council by the committee, the council also acted to approve a certified survey map to combine the properties at 1000-1008 Nordland Dr. Discussion followed.

Stoughton Utilities & WPPI Energy Services Manager Position: Staff introduced Darren Jacobson who joined Stoughton Utilities and WPPI Energy (WPPI) as an Energy Service Manager (ESM) in June of 2022. A background of the ESM position was provided, discussing the shared goals of Stoughton Utilities and WPPI Energy in the areas of key account management, power supply, distributed generation, energy efficiency and sustainability, effective rate classification, and local business support.

Staff informed the committee that key account management has been identified as a top priority for the ESM position to build two-way communications and engagement with our largest electric customers, and requested that inquiries from city officials, customers, and developers be directed to Stoughton Utilities staff who will engage the ESM when appropriate. Discussion followed.

Questions were raised by the committee about the Inflation Reduction Act and its included tax law changes related to solar credits. Staff informed the committee that it has been referring customers to organizations that focus on providing information and resources on rooftop solar and financing opportunities, including RENEW Wisconsin and Focus on Energy. It was requested that staff create materials that could serve as a guide for customers that have questions about tax credits, including a list of resources they can contact for more information.

Rejection of Bid Award of North Street and Bickley Court Reconstruction Contract 2-2023 to Rock Road Companies, Inc.: Staff presented and discussed the bids received for the 2023 North Street and Bickley Court reconstruction project 2-2023 that were opened on March 21, 2023. The apparent low bidder was Rock Road Companies, Inc. of Janesville Wisconsin with a bid of \$1,000,933.67, of which the Stoughton Utilities share was \$307,039.71. Funds approved for the project in the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) totaled \$194,523.75.

Staff informed the committee that they do not consider the North Street reconstruction a high priority project, and there was no utility work planned for Bickley Court. Due to the low bid being 56% above the amount budgeted, it was staff's recommendation that the bids for Contract 2-2023 be rejected, and this recommendation was shared with the consulting engineer, mayor, and City of Stoughton staff following the bid opening. Staff informed the committee that on April 11, 2023, the Stoughton Common Council acted unanimously to vote against awarding the low bid for Contract 2-2023. It is not yet known in what year the North Street project will be rescheduled. Discussion followed.

Update on the Stoughton Utilities Strategic Alignment Plan: Staff presented an update on the Stoughton Utilities strategic alignment plan that was approved in August 23, providing information on changes to the organizational structure, position descriptions, facility needs, and opportunities for ongoing wage reviews to

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maintain and recruit staff. Discussion followed. Swadley informed the committee that they may see a facility needs study included in the utility and/or city capital improvement plan(s) for 2024 as current building uses are reviewed and plans are drafted for future needs. The vacant land owned by Stoughton Utilities adjacent to the West Substation was discussed as a potential site option or as a funding source for the purchase of another site.

American Public Power Association Electric Reliability Annual Benchmarking Report: Staff presented and discussed a report provided by the American Public Power Association (APPA) containing the utility's 2022 electric reliability metrics, including information about how the utility's reliability compares to other utilities across the country, sorted by size and region. The average Stoughton Utilities customer experienced 0.59 electric service interruptions, with average electric service availability of 99.986%. Staff informed the committee that Stoughton Utilities has again been recognized by the APPA for its exceptional electric system reliability. Discussion followed.

Utilities Committee Future Agenda Items: Stoughton Utilities staff informed the committee that the May meeting will be the annual committee reorganization meeting and will also include presentations of the annual financial audit report and the PSCW annual reports. Staff will be working to prepare an ordinance related to the abandonment of unused water and sanitary sewer laterals, which will be brought to a future committee meeting. Erdman requested that updates be provided as the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin continues their work on the electric rate case.

Adjournment: Being no further business before the committee, motion by Hirsch, the motion seconded by Thoren, to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian R. Hoops

Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director