

STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 19, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

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- Location:** Online Attendance: GoToMeeting ID 487-098-365
- Members Present:** Citizen Member David Erdman (Chair), Alderperson Ben Heili (Vice-Chair), Alderperson Regina Hirsch, Citizen Member John Kallas, Mayor Tim Swadley, Citizen Member Dustin Thoren
- Excused:** None
- Absent:** Alderperson Greg Jenson
- Others Present:** Kelsey Dybevik, Stoughton Director of Finance & Comptroller Jamin Friedl, Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director Brian Hoops, Charles “Buck” Sweeney, Stoughton Utilities and WPPI Energy Services Manager Amy Wanek, Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss

Call to Order: Utilities Committee Chairperson David Erdman called the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Utilities Committee Consent Agenda: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Utilities Committee consent agenda items, highlighting that April 18 was National Lineman Appreciation Day and noting SU’s ongoing Thank-A-Lineworker coloring contest.

Committee Chairperson Erdman informed the committee that this meeting was Alderperson Jenson’s last meeting on the committee, and commended and thanked Jenson for his years of service on the committee.

Motion by Heili, the motion seconded by Kallas, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Draft Minutes of the March 22, 2021 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
- b. Stoughton Utilities March Payments Due List Report
- c. Stoughton Utilities February Financial Summary
- d. Stoughton Utilities February Statistical Report
- e. Stoughton Utilities March Activities Report
- f. Communications

The motion carried unanimously 6 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 approved and/or placed on file by the Stoughton Common Council:

Consent Agenda:

1. Draft Minutes of the February 15, 2021 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
2. Stoughton Utilities February Payments Due List Report
3. Stoughton Utilities December Financial Summary
4. Stoughton Utilities January Financial Summary
5. Stoughton Utilities January Statistical Report

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Business:

1. Approval of the Fiber Optic Agreement and Grant of Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) Between the City of Stoughton and TDS Metrocom
2. Bad Debt Account Write-Offs through December 31, 2020
3. Declaration of Official Intent 2021-1
4. Execution of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Principal Forgiven Financial Assistance Agreement
5. Bid Award of 2021 Lead Water Service Replacements Contract 4-2021 to Five Star Energy Services, LLC

Discussion followed.

Partial Release of a Platted Storm Water Management Easement and the Partial Release (From 12' to 10') of a Platted Utility Easement on Lot 27 of Westview Ridge (2233 Hilldale Cir):

Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed a request received by the homeowner at 2233 Hilldale Cir. to reduce the sizes of an existing storm water management easement and an existing platted public utility easement. The proposed partial release of the easement reduces the easement size by 2 feet. There is no underground electrical infrastructure existing in this 2-foot section, nor is there any future use planned for this section of the easement. The partial easement release requires two separate committee actions, with this agenda item addressing the first statutory requirement. Discussion followed.

The homeowner (Dybevik) and their attorney (Sweeney), were present, and along with Stoughton Utilities staff addressed questions from the committee regarding the original easement platting design and legal description, and how the change would affect neighboring parcels. Staff explained that this change only applies to this one parcel, and due to the circumstances of the original legal description that contained conflicting information, and the inconsistent easement design within the original development, this action would not set a precedent for the release of future easements.

Motion by Thoren, the motion seconded by Hirsch, to approve the partial release of the platted storm water management easement and the partial release (from 12' to 10') of the platted utility easement on Lot 27 of Westview Ridge (2233 Hilldale Cir), and recommend approval of the partial release of the easements to the Stoughton Common Council. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

Partial Release of a Platted Storm Water Management Easement and the Partial Release (From 12' to 10') of a Platted Utility Easement on Lot 27 of Westview Ridge (2233 Hilldale Cir):

Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed a request received by the homeowner at 2233 Hilldale Cir. to reduce the sizes of an existing storm water management easement and an existing platted public utility easement. The proposed partial release of the easement reduces the easement size by 2 feet. There is no underground electrical infrastructure existing in this 2-foot section, nor is there any future use planned for this section of the easement. Recording of the correction affidavit will ensure that the Dane County Register of Deeds makes note of the change on the applicable plat. The partial easement release requires two separate committee actions, with this agenda item addressing the second statutory requirement. Discussion followed.

Motion by Thoren, the motion seconded by Heili, to approve the correction affidavit referencing the partial release of a platted storm water management easement and the partial release (from 12' to 10') of a platted utility easement on Lot 27 of Westview Ridge (2233 Hilldale Cir), and recommend approval of the correction affidavit to the Stoughton Common Council. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

Dybevik and Sweeney left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

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Presentation - Communitywide Efficiency and Renewable Energy Tracking: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed past, current, and future sustainability and energy efficiency measures taken by Stoughton Utilities, the City of Stoughton, the customers of Stoughton Utilities, and Stoughton Utilities' wholesale energy provider, WPPI Energy. Discussion followed.

American Public Power Association Electric Reliability Annual Benchmarking Report: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed a report containing the utility's 2020 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 0.68 electric service interruptions, with average electric service availability of 99.9883%. Discussion followed.

Lead Service Line Replacement Program Status Update: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed recent efforts that have occurred in preparation for the planned 2021 citywide lead service line replacement project of public and privately-owned lead service lines.

Staff discussed that the 2021 Lead Water Service Replacements Contract was awarded to Five Star Energy Services, LLC and the project preconstruction meeting was held with the contractor and public stakeholders, and shared what has been provided regarding the contractors plan to begin construction. Staff also informed the committee that the in-home efforts to locate lead service lines is approaching completion. Staff discussed our public outreach and education efforts, as well as how information will continue to be shared with residents and highlighted through social and local media. Updates regarding the ongoing construction project will be posted to stoughtonutilities.com/lead and stoughtonutilities.com/construction. Discussion followed.

Utilities Committee Future Agenda Items: Staff informed the committee that upcoming regular meeting topics will include lead service line replacement program status updates. Heili requested a collections status update due to the recent end of the disconnection moratorium. Discussion followed.

Adjournment: Being no further business before the committee, the Chair adjourned the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Brian R. Hoops
Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director