

STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 22, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

Page No. 1

Location: Edmund T. Malinowski Board Room, Stoughton Utilities Administration Office
600 South Fourth Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin
Optional Virtual Participation: GoToMeeting ID 836-926-653

Members Present: Citizen Member Carl Chenoweth, Citizen Member David Erdman (Chair), Alderperson Regina Hirsch, Mayor Tim Swadley, Citizen Member Dustin Thoren (Vice-Chair), Alderperson Jordan Tilleson

Excused: None

Absent: Alderperson Greg Jensen

Others Present: City of Stoughton Director of Human Resources & Risk Management Amy Jo Gillingham, Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director Brian Hoops, Stoughton Utilities Finance Manager Shannon Statz

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

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: There were no public comments.

Utilities Committee Consent Agenda: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Utilities Committee consent agenda items. Staff highlighted an upcoming Orientation to WPPI Energy opportunity being held in mid-October. Discussion followed.

Motion by Thoren, the motion seconded by Chenoweth, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Minutes of the August 18, 2025 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
- b. Minutes of the September 8, 2025 Special Utilities Committee Meeting
- c. Stoughton Utilities Payments Due List Report
- d. Stoughton Utilities Financial Report
- e. Stoughton Utilities Statistical Report
- f. Stoughton Utilities Activities Report
- g. Communications

The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

Status of the Utilities Committee recommendation(s) to the Stoughton Common Council: Stoughton Utilities staff reviewed with the committee the items recently approved and/or placed on file by the Stoughton Common Council. Discussion followed.

STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 22, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

Page No. 2

Preview of the Stoughton Utilities Proposed 2026 Budget: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed preliminary projections that will be used to create the proposed 2026 electric, water, and wastewater budgets. Staff explained that all rate and debt projections assume a new administration building will be constructed in 2027, and discussed a variety of other assumptions and projections used in the creation of the budget. Discussion followed.

Staff explained that the 2026 budget assumes a reduction in sales in all three utilities. The forecasts used for preparation of the budget suggest that while the utility may see slight increases in consumption in 2026, trends indicate that all three utilities should expect continued conservation. Staff explained there are several large customers that anticipate reducing their usage through the installation of large solar arrays and significant water conservation efforts, and accordingly preparing for a reduction in total usage seems appropriate. Discussion followed.

Staff discussed projected utility staff wage and benefit increases and shared that the draft budget includes a 3% across-the-board increase for all employees in 2025. However, it was explained that a continuation of the market-based compensation reviews that were approved in 2025 will continue, and wage adjustments will be based on market comparables as opposed to a flat across-the-board approach. Discussion followed.

Staff presented the anticipated future rate increases and debt issuances for each utility and informed the committee that they are the result of a continued aggressive water and sewer main replacement program and construction of a new facility. Current rate projections significant increases to water and sewer rates, spread out over a period of five years. Discussion followed.

Staff informed the committee that following the meeting the budget calculations will be finalized and drafted into a proposed Stoughton Utilities 2026 operating budget that will be presented to the committee at their October meeting for review, approval, and recommendation to the Stoughton Common Council.

Stoughton Utilities Proposed Five Year (2026 – 2030) Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Program:

Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the proposed five-year (2026-2030) Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) program. Significant projects, including water and sanitary sewer main replacement projects, were highlighted. Discussion followed.

Motion by Chenoweth, the motion seconded by Thoren, to approve the Stoughton Utilities five-year (2026-2030) Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Plan, and recommend approval to the Stoughton Common Council when the Stoughton Utilities 2026 operating budget is presented for adoption. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

Appointment of Adam D. Schleicher, P.E. as Director to the WPPI Energy Board of Directors:

Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the request to appoint the new Utilities Director, Adam Schleicher, as Director to the WPPI Energy Board of Directors. Staff informed the committee that historically since joining WPPI Energy as a member/owner in 2003, the Utilities Director has served as the appointed Director to the WPPI Energy Board of Directors. Staff further informed the committee that the position description approved in 2022 for the Utilities Director includes serving in this role. Discussion followed.

Motion by Hirsch, the motion seconded by Thoren, to approve the appointment of Adam D. Schleicher, P.E. as the Director representing Stoughton Utilities on the WPPI Energy Board of Directors, and recommend the appointment and the adoption of the corresponding resolution to the Stoughton Common Council at their October 14, 2025 meeting. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 22, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

Page No. 3

Utilities Committee Future Agenda Items: Stoughton Utilities staff informed the committee that future agenda items include presentation and approval of the 2026 operating budget at the October meeting. An investment summary and a presentation by Mike Peters, CEO of WPPI Energy, will also occur at the October meeting. Discussion followed.

Adjournment: Being no further business before the committee, motion by Hirsch, the motion seconded by Chenoweth, to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian R. Hoops

Assistant Stoughton Utilities Director