

# STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 16, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

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**Location:** Edmund T. Malinowski Board Room  
Stoughton Utilities Administration Office  
600 South Fourth Street  
Stoughton, Wisconsin, 53589

**Members Present:** Citizen Member David Erdman, Alderperson Regina Hirsch, Citizen Member John Kallas, Alderperson Pat O'Connor, Mayor Tim Swadley, Alderperson Nicole Wiessinger

**Excused:** Citizen Member Kym Ackerman

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Stoughton Director of Finance & Comptroller Jamin Friedl, CPA, Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director Brian Hoops, Stoughton Utilities Director Robert Kardasz, P.E., Stoughton Utilities Operations Technician Marty Seffens, WPPI Energy Senior Vice President of Member Services and Business Strategy Tom Paque, WPPI Energy/Stoughton Utilities Energy Services Manager Cory Neeley

**Call to Order:** Utilities Committee Chairperson David Erdman called the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

**Utilities Committee Consent Agenda:** Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Utilities Committee consent agenda items. Discussion followed.

Former Stoughton Utilities employee Tim Strandlie and his sons Tyler and Ethan were recognized for their volunteer landscaping work completed at Water Tower II on Furseth Road.

Motion by Alderperson Pat O'Connor, the motion seconded by Citizen Member John Kallas, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: Stoughton Utilities Payments Due List Report, Draft Minutes of the June 18, 2018 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting, Stoughton Utilities May 2018 Financial Summary, Stoughton Utilities May 2018 Statistical Report, Stoughton Utilities June 2018 Activities Report, Utilities Committee Annual Calendar, 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:

- Stoughton Utilities Payments Due List Report
- Stoughton Utilities Committee May 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- Stoughton Utilities April 2018 Financial Summary
- Stoughton Utilities April 2018 Statistical Report
- Wastewater treatment facility and sanitary sewer collection system 2017 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR)

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**Presentation by WPPI Energy: *Doing More Together***: Stoughton Utilities staff introduced Tom Paque, Senior Vice President of Member Services and Business Strategy at WPPI Energy, who provided an informational presentation to the committee. Topics included:

- Stoughton Utilities power supply portfolio,
- A cost comparison of new renewable power supply contracts vs. traditional generation,
- Cost savings from recent tax refunds, and how they impact wholesale and retail rates, and
- Wholesale rate design, and how seasonal cost fluctuations are passed to retail customers.

Discussion followed.

**Responsibilities, Powers and Duties of the Stoughton Utilities Committee**: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed excerpts from the City of Stoughton Code of Ordinances that outline the responsibilities, power, and duties of the Stoughton Utilities Committee. Discussion followed.

**Stoughton Utilities Round-Up Program**: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Utilities Round-Up Program. A brief description and history of the program was provided to the new committee members. This is the first of two donations to be made in 2018, with an applicant pool of 17 local non-profit organizations. Discussion followed. Motion by Alderperson Pat O'Connor, the motion seconded by Alderperson Nicole Wiessinger, to donate \$1,000 from the Stoughton Utilities Round-Up Program to Shalom Free Health Clinic. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

**2017 Wisconsin Act 137 – The Leading on Lead Act**: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed information about 2017 Wisconsin Act 137 that allows public water utilities to utilize ratepayer funds to assist property owners with the replacement of their privately owned lead water laterals. Under this law, if the City of Stoughton passes an ordinance requiring the replacement of all privately owned lead water laterals, the water utility may finance up to 50% of the homeowner's costs, with such financing not being subject to forgiveness. Any such financing plans must be approved by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Stoughton Utilities staff has been following the application process unfold at a nearby water utility. Discussion followed. The Committee directed staff to prepare a packet of education materials, including testing and filter resources, to be provided to customers who may have lead service lateral, and to work with trade organizations to continue to pursue additional grant funding.

**City of Stoughton Finance & Accounting Restructuring**: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the restructuring of the City of Stoughton Finance Department, approved by the Stoughton Personnel Committee at its July 2, 2018 meeting, and the Stoughton Finance Committee and Stoughton Common Council at their July 10, 2018 meetings. Stoughton Utilities will work with the City of Stoughton Finance Department to ensure all finance and accounting operations continue as before, and all regulatory accounting requirements are maintained. Discussion followed.

**Utilities Committee future agenda items**: Staff informed the committee that upcoming topics include employee succession planning, the Stoughton Utilities 2019 Budget and five year Capital Improvement Projects plan, and further discussions on lead service laterals. Committee members requested future items include a discussion of wastewater sampling results obtained from the Stoughton Fair Board, taken at Mandt Park during the recent Stoughton Junior Fair.

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**Tour of the Stoughton Utilities Well No. 5:** Stoughton Utilities staff provided a brief history of the Stoughton Water Utility, and invited the committee members to participate in a tour of Stoughton Utilities Water Well No. 5, located at 1320 West South Street, immediately following the meeting. Discussion followed.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Alderperson Pat O'Connor, the motion seconded by Citizen Member John Kallas, to adjourn the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting at 6:53 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

Alderperson Pat O'Connor and Alderperson Nicole Wiessinger joined Stoughton Utilities Director Robert Kardasz for a tour Stoughton Utilities Well No. 5.

Respectfully submitted

Brian R. Hoops  
Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director