

**Lanesboro Public Utilities Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 – 7:30 a.m.  
Lanesboro Community Center – City Council Chambers**

**Members:**     Joe Cullen                     Jon Pieper             Brian Roelofs  
**Staff:**         Mitchell Walbridge     Darla Taylor     Jerod Wagner  
**Guests:**

**Regular Meeting**

Member Pieper called the regular meeting of the Lanesboro Public Utility Commission to order at 7:30 a.m.

- A. Agenda Approval:** Member Pieper requested that Utility Losses be added to the agenda under Continued Business. A motion was made by Member Pieper to approve the agenda with the requested addition; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- B. Public Comment:** No public comments were shared.
- C. Consent Agenda**
  - a. Accounts Payable
  - b. Minutes of Regular Meeting, November 19, 2025
  - c. 2025 YTD Budget Review
  - d. Quarter 4 Unaudited Fund BalanceA motion was made by Member Pieper to approve the Consent Agenda; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- D. Staff Update:** Utility Supervisor Jerod Wagner provided a staff update and explained that surge testing for capacity credits is scheduled for February 2026.
- E. City Council Update:** There was no report provided from the Lanesboro City Council.

**Continued Business**

- A. Consider Proposals for Power Plant Flood Mitigation Preliminary Engineering Report:** Administrator Walbridge stated that the grant program is still accepting applications for emergency mitigation projects. Proposals were submitted by several professional service consulting firms, and Administrator Walbridge asked if the Commission would like to proceed, knowing that there would be an upfront cost on the part of Lanesboro Public Utilities. A motion was made by Member Pieper to proceed with obtaining a Preliminary Engineering Report; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- B. Utility Losses – Water and Electric:** Member Pieper asked if there was an update on water loss that had been previously investigated. Supervisor Wagner reported that no significant causes of water loss were identified by a third party consultant. Administrator Walbridge explained that electric line loss is calculated annually during the Lanesboro Public Utility financial audit. The audit is scheduled to take place in February. No action was taken.

## New Business

- A. Appointment of Public Utilities Commission Chairperson for 2026:** A motion was made by Member Cullen to appoint Jon Pieper as Commission Chairperson for 2026; Member Pieper seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- B. Establish Regular Meeting Date and Time for Public Utility Commission:** A motion was made by Member Pieper to schedule the commission's regular meetings for the third Monday of each month at 7:15 a.m.; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- C. Consider Moratorium on Solar Interconnection Applications:** Kent Whitcomb, MiEnergy Cooperative, was present and explained the recommended moratorium on solar interconnection applications until system mapping could be completed. Whitcomb also explained an estimate from STAR Energy Services to have data collection completed that would include GPS location, pole height and class, primary structure configuration, conductor size and type, direction of feed, point-to-point sourcing for meters, and photographic documentation for primary collectors plus meters for an estimated \$33,570. There was also an estimate for secondary routes, meters, and streetlights presented for an estimated \$46,530.
- A motion was made by Member Pieper to establish a four month moratorium on new solar applications; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- A motion was made by Member Pieper to approve the bid from STAR Energy Services for Primary Collection Plus Meters not to exceed a cost of \$33,570; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- D. Consider Cost-of-Living Staff Salary Adjustment for 2026:** Administrator Walbridge requested the Public Utility Commission adopt a three-percent COLA for 2026 which would be in alignment with the City of Lanesboro staff COLA. A motion was made by Member Pieper to adopt a three-percent cost of living adjustment; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting in favor.
- E. Streetlighting on Kenilworth Avenue South:** A motion was made by Member Pieper to table discussion until the next meeting; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Member Pieper to adjourn the meeting; Member Cullen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge  
City Administrator/Clerk