

**Lanesboro Public Utilities Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – 7:15 a.m.
Lanesboro City Council Chambers**

Members Present:

Joe Cullen Jon Pieper Brian Roelofs

Staff Present:

Mitchell Walbridge Jerod Wagner Darla Taylor

Member Pieper called the regular meeting of the Lanesboro Public Utilities Commission to order at 7:15 a.m.

A. Agenda Approval: A motion was made by Member Roelofs to approve the agenda as presented; Member Pieper seconded the motion. All commission members voted in favor; Motion carried.

B. Public Comments: No public comments were shared.

C. Consent Agenda:

- a. Accounts Payable
- b. Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 20, 2026

A motion was made by Member Roelofs to approve the Consent Agenda; Member Pieper seconded the motion. All commission members voted in favor; Motion carried.

D. Staff Update: Public Utility Supervisor Jerod Wagner provided an update to the commission.

- Supervisor Wagner summarized the latest UMMEG business meeting.
- The surge testing that took place went well.
- Supervisor Wagner expressed concern with organizational concerns over the electric grid grant process.
- Staff would like to investigate the purchase of a shipping container for extra storage at the power plant.

Continued Business

A. Discuss Streetlighting on Kenilworth Avenue South: Members discussed a request for additional streetlighting to be installed on the 500 block of Kenilworth Avenue South. An estimate from Haakenson Electric, Inc. was \$9,020 to install two streetlights on the boulevard. Supervisor Wagner noted that if poles already in inventory are used, there would be an approximate savings of \$2,340.

A motion was made by Member Pieper to deny approval of the streetlighting request; Member Roelofs seconded the motion. During discussion, members noted that they are unsure if residents would be in favor of the lighting near their homes. They also noted that right now, streetlighting in residential areas is not the standard practice. All commission members voted in favor; Motion carried.

New Business

A. Consider Recommendation to Utilize Cash Reserves for TH250 Project Land Acquisition:

Administrator Walbridge explained the appraisal process for easement acquisition related to the TH250 Road/Utility project is concluding, and the City will need to front cash payment to property owners for both temporary and permanent easements. Most of these payments will be reimbursed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation since they will be the ultimate holder of the easements. In consultation with the City's financial advisor, if possible, the City should consider using utility fund cash reserves rather than taking out another short-term debt obligation.

A motion was made by Member Roelofs to approve the request to use cash reserves; Member Pieper seconded the motion. During discussion, the fund cash balances were reviewed. Member Pieper stated he would like the City Council to initiate a formal request for consideration prior to issuing a decision. Member Roelofs withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Member Roelofs to table discussion; Member Pieper seconded the motion. All commission members voted in favor; Motion carried.

B. Consider Accepting Proposal for Power Plant Flood Mitigation Preliminary Engineering Report: Administrator Walbridge requested the commission members either accept a proposal for the Flood Mitigation Preliminary Engineering Report or deny all proposals as they have been in a pending status. Administrator Walbridge stated that Bolton & Menk, Inc. would be considered the lowest responsible bidder at a proposal of \$20,000. A motion was made by Member Pieper to accept the proposal from Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Member Roelofs seconded the motion. During discussion, Member Pieper stated that getting the report would be beneficial due to the power plant's proximity to the Root River. All commission members voted in favor; Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Pieper to adjourn the meeting; Member Roelofs seconded the motion. All commission members voted in favor; Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk