

**Lanesboro Public Utilities Commission  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 23, 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:** City Administrator Mitchell Walbridge requested that the Lanesboro Public Utilities Annual Scholarship be added under New Business. A motion was made by Member Pieper to approve the agenda with the requested addition; Member Cullen seconded. All 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, February 17, 2026
- c. March 2026 Unaudited Fund Balance

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

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

- Supervisor Wagner is working on how to identify electric outages more efficiently. Currently, Wagner needs to look up an outage by meter ID rather than by customer name or address.
- A new electrical service is being installed for Duschee Hills Dairy.

**Continued Business**

**A. Consider Recommendation to Utilize Cash Reserves for TH250 Project Land Acquisition:** The City Council requested that the Utility Commission approve using enterprise fund cash reserves to pay temporary and permanent easement acquisition costs for the TH250 project. Most of the easement payments will be reimbursed by the State of Minnesota. This option is more advantageous for the City rather than initiating more short-term debt. A motion was made by Member Pieper to utilize cash reserves for the acquisition payments; Member Cullen seconded. During discussion, Member Pieper said it was important that reimbursement be receipted back to the appropriate utility fund. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.

**B. Discuss Wastewater Pre-Treatment Agreement with Sylvan Brewing:** Member Roelofs joined the meeting at 7:21 a.m. The commission discussed the history of the wastewater treatment facility and the industrial strength wastewater that has been discharged from Sylvan Brewing. Options for a formalized agreement and ordinance enforcement were also discussed. Utility Supervisor Wagner stated he needs the commission to reach a resolution that allows him to monitor loading, wastewater testing, and slow-release practices for the brewery's wastewater. Unknown variables create difficulties for the wastewater treatment facility.

A motion was made by Member Pieper to table discussion for 30 days to allow Andy Heimdahl to provide a finalized proposed solution for holding and testing for which an agreement would be put in place to maintain ordinance compliance; Member Cullen seconded. Member Pieper reiterated that a formal agreement will be put in place, but contract contents will be dependent upon Sylvan Brewing's approach to either removing wastewater and brewing byproducts into the municipal sewer system or creating a conducive way for Lanesboro Public Utilities to test the brewing byproducts and regulate

timed release into the sanitary sewer system. All members voted in favor; Motion carried. Member Cullen left the meeting at 8:03 a.m.

### **New Business**

- A. Consider Amendments to Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Policy:** Proposed amendments to the Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Policy were presented. Administrator Walbridge explained that the updates include a better inventory of sewer lines, mains, and lift stations as well as a more detailed maintenance schedule. A motion was made by Member Pieper to adopt the amendments noting that televised inspection of all the sewer mains should be done at least once every five years; Member Roelofs seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.
- B. Discuss Alley and Sewer Improvement Needs:** Administrator Walbridge explained that Public Works Director David Haugen plans to start improving alleys, likely two alleys per year, from west to east through the city. Sewer line runs under the alleyway on the 700 block of Rochelle Avenue South and Parkway Avenue South. Utility Supervisor Wagner stated that the sewer infrastructure is from about 1939 and should be replaced at the same time as the alley road surface. Because of the upcoming TH250 road project, the commission would like to investigate whether the sewer and alley improvements could be completed by the same contractor in 2027. A motion was made to table by Member Pieper; Member Roelofs seconded. The commission would like to further discuss this later in the year. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.
- C. Approve Request for Proposals for Electric Grid Resilience Grant:** Two Requests for Proposals were drafted by Administrator Walbridge to solicit bids as part of the Electric Grid Resilience Grant. One request is for automation improvements to the diesel generator while the other request is for cybersecurity upgrades. A motion was made by Member Pieper to approve the Requests for Proposals as drafted and publish the documents; Member Roelofs seconded. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.
- D. Annual Lanesboro Public Utilities Scholarship:** Administrator Walbridge explained that Dairyland Power Cooperative has started a new community initiative that allows each utility member to award a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating student who resides in a household served by the municipal utility. Administrator Walbridge requested the commission adopt the application form and participate in the program. A motion was made by Member Pieper to have Lanesboro Public Utilities offer the \$1,000 scholarship; Member Roelofs seconded. All members voted in favor; Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Pieper to adjourn the meeting; Member Roelofs seconded. All members voted in favor; Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge  
City Administrator/Clerk