



# UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City of New Prague

Monday, March 30, 2026 at 3:30 PM

Power Plant - 300 East Main St

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Utilities Commission Vice President Charles Nickolay on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 3:27 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Charles Nickolay, Tom Ewert, Paul Busch and Bruce Wolf

Commissioners Absent: Dan Bishop

Staff Present: General Manager Bruce Reimers, Finance Director Robin Pikal and EOS Ken Zweber

Others Present: Rebecca Kurtz and Keith Dahl from Ehlers Municipal Advisors

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Commissioner Busch, seconded by Commissioner Nickolay, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried (4-0)

**3. COVENANTS FOR BONDING**

**a. Covenants for Bonding Draft**

Rebecca and Keith from Ehlers Municipal Advisors went over a draft of bonding covenants for the anticipated bond sale that will take place this fall for funding for the West Side Energy Station. The Commission asked for some clarification on the wording of the covenants as it pertained to the City and NPUC'S obligations that are listed in the Covenants. Ehlers will consult with the bonding attorney and make revisions accordingly with a final draft to be presented at the April meeting.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. February 23, 2026 Utilities Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Commissioner Ewert, seconded by Commissioner Busch, to approve the February meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried (4-0)

**5. UTILITY AND SMMPA BILLS**

**a. Approval of accounts payable in the amount of \$548,342.56 and the SMMPA billing of \$518,961.92.**

GM Reimers went over the SMMPA billing to review the ECA charges caused by winter storm Fern, stating the SMMPA board approved using \$5,000,000 in cash reserves to reduce by half the amount that would have been passed on to customers in ECA charges, limiting the storm impact to \$.02 for only one month.

Motion made by Commissioner Ewert, seconded by Commissioner Busch, to approve the accounts payable as presented.

Motion carried (4-0)

**6. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- a. Investment Report
- b. Financial Report
- c. Water and Kilowatt Hours Sales

Motion made by Commissioner Nickolay, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, to approve the financial reports as presented.

Motion carried (4-0)

**7. SMMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

- a. February 11, 2026

GM Reimers informed the Commission of the following:

-The Board approved moving forward with authorizing bond sales for the Owatonna power plant in an estimated amount of \$75,000,000.

-SMMPA operations staff reviewed MISO changes in reliability demand curves that will be part of capacity seasonal credits moving forward.

**8. AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIP**

- a. College Scholarship Program Application

GM Reimers informed the Commission that only one scholarship application was received that met the criteria requirements and recommended that the Commission award the scholarship to Cole Rezac, as he will be majoring in Computer and Electrical Engineering at NDSU.

Motion was made by Commissioner Nickolay, seconded by Commissioner Busch, to award the scholarship to Cole Rezac.

Motion carried (4-0)

**9. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

GM Reimers informed the Commission of the following:

-Filter Plant #3 rehab is progressing on schedule as contractors continue to sandblast and paint the interior of the filter

-Staff met with contractors of the WES and were informed that footing work has been delayed until the week of April 6<sup>th</sup> due to weather, but they do not anticipate that it will affect the completion schedule.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Commissioner Nickolay, seconded by Commissioner Ewert, to adjourn the March Commission meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Motion carried (4-0)

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce Reimers  
General Manager