

**Public Works Committee Meeting  
Monday, March 16, 2026  
Red Bud City Hall  
Council Chambers (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)**

Committee Members Present: Kyle Donjon, Bill Hanebutt, Rodney Nevois, Bryce Parsons

Committee Members Absent: Curt Guebert

Council Members Present: Patrick Mueller, Jeremy DeMond, Alan Piel

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mayor Susan Harbaugh, City Attorney Rebecca Cooper, City Superintendent Josh Eckart, Code Admin./City Engineer Jeff Mueller, Admin. Officer Jill Landgraf, Police Chief John Brittingham, City Clerk Joanne Cowell, Finance Officer Liz Cowell

Mayor Harbaugh called the meeting to order at 6:39 P.M.

Old Business

**I. Power Plant**

- A. Plant Report  
Eckart said the generation runs are per schedule. Two items are completed on the Travelers Insurance recommendations and work continues on the others.

**II. Utilities/Streets**

- A. Electric  
Work continues at the RBBP. The electric and gas lines will be trenched together. Mayor Harbaugh thanked the electric crew for their hard work in restoring the power after the storm. Eckart said that they could not generate due to poles and lines being on the ground and power was restored to everyone by around 1:30-2:00 AM.
- B. Gas  
Work continues at the RBBP.
- C. Water  
The valve on the bottom of the head tank needs to be repaired.
- D. Sewer  
There were some issues with the Knotty Pines lift station pump last week.
- E. Streets  
Work will start on crack sealing on the concrete streets.

**III. Succession Planning**

*Nothing to report*

**IV. Annual CPI Utility Rate Increases**

Superintendent Eckart discussed the Annual Rate Increase Consideration schedule which he had prepared. This will be left on the agenda for future discussion.

Admin. Officer Landgraf said that if the city ever tries for grants or loan forgiveness for a big project, the city would be forced to develop some sort of automatic rate increase schedule.

**V. AMI Metering Update**

Eckart explained the proposal information from Landis+Gyr AMI for automatic meter readers. These systems have real time information. Disconnects and reconnects can be done from the office. When the power goes out, the system will tell you exactly where the meters are out. All meters will need to be replaced. The cost over ten years is \$1,090,682.80 as presented by Fletcher-Reinhardt Company. Eckart will ask the FR representative to give a presentation at a future meeting.

New Business

**I. Approval of Prior Month's Meeting Minutes – Meeting February 16, 2026**

*Recommendation made by Committee Member Nevois, seconded by Committee Member Parsons to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2026, meeting. Carried*

**II. Request to Advertise for Permanent Street Program Project**

*Recommendation made by Committee Member Parsons, seconded by Committee Member Nevois to advertise for bids for the permanent street program project. Carried*

**III. Utility Gas Management Discount Program – Approval of Resolution No. 26-001 & Amendment to Natural Gas Management Agreement**

Superintendent Eckart said the Resolution and Amendment is for discounts and rebates on the purchase of gas.

*Recommendation made by Committee Member Donjon, seconded by Committee Member Parsons to approve the Resolution and Amendment with Utility Gas Management, after review by the city attorney. Carried*

**IV. Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network**

*Recommendation made by Committee Member Nevois, seconded by Committee Member Parsons to approve joining Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network, NTE \$100 per year. Carried*

**V. Utility Billing Appeals Process**

Superintendent Eckart requested authorization to add an official utility bill appeals process to the ordinance. The process has been used but needs to be in writing.

*Recommendation made by Committee Member Hanebutt, seconded by Committee Member Nevois to approve adding a written appeals process for utility bills to the ordinance. Carried*

**VI. Training Request for Daniel Koester – IMEA Annual Conference & Trade Show (Power Plant Operator Session) – May 15, 2026**

***Recommendation made by Committee Member Nevois, seconded by Committee Member Parsons to approve sending Daniel Koester to training entitled “Annual Conference & Trade Show” in Springfield, IL on May 15, 2026. There is no registration fee. Carried***

**VII. Public Comments/Anything for the Good of the City**

Superintendent Eckart said today he received a proposal from Volkert to do the legal descriptions for easements for the extension of the sidewalk on East Market Street to Lockwood Drive in the amount of \$1,650. Both property owners are on board with the sidewalk extension. This will be on the council agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne G. Cowell, City Clerk  
Red Bud, Illinois