



Utility Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

Roll Call

Notice of Open Meeting

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the August 20th Utility Commission Minutes.
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursement Report and Accounts Payable Report.
3. Outage Reports.

Unfinished Business

New Business

4. Resolution re: Approve Amendment No. 3 to Long-Term Power Supply Contract for Participating Members.
5. Consider and take action on amending the Stipend Memo for Utility Staff.
6. Consider and take action on Task Order 2026-07 with Ruekert-Mielke related to 2027 Capital Improvement Project.
7. Consider and take action on Task Order 2026-03 with Ruekert-Mielke related to Storm Water Utility Updates and Implementation in the amount of \$33,050.

Reports

8. Director's Report Outline.
9. September 2026 Live Lines.

Adjourn

*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.



Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Columbus City Hall – 105 N. Dickason Boulevard

Call to Order

President Michael Thom called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Michael Thom, Lori Koenig-Fry, Brook Andler, Molly Finkler, Sandy Curtis, and Jack Sanderson. Joe Hammer was an excused absence.

Notice of Open Meeting

The meeting was noted as posted.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Finkler, seconded by Curtis to approve the agenda. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Finkler, seconded by Koenig-Fry to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

1. Approval of the July 16th Utility Commission Minutes.
2. Approve Utility Departments Cash Disbursement Report and Accounts Payable Report.
3. Outage Reports.

New Business

4. 2025 Utility Audit Presentation by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP CPA Director Dan La Haye.
Dan La Haye presented the audit report and answered questions from the Commission. No action was taken on this item.
5. Consider and take action on the funding for the Storm Water Utility.
Jason Lietha provided a presentation and answered questions from the commission.
Motion by Sanderson, seconded by Finkler to recommend option 2 and charge via the utility bill.
Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.
6. Consider and take action on the Substation 2 (Water Street) Transformer Purchase.
Motion by Finkler, seconded by Andler, to award MC Sales/Waukesha \$1,868,226 for transformer purchase, pending City Attorney review. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.

7. Consider and take action on Electric Lead Lineman proposed updated wage scale.

Motion by Fry, seconded by Curtis, to approve the Electric Lead Lineman wage scale recommendation of \$56.67-60.95. Motion passed on a unanimous roll-call vote.

8. Consider, discuss and take possible action on email sent from Fall River Village President on July 30, 2026, regarding the outstanding arrears owed to Columbus Utilities .

No action was taken on this item.

Reports

9. Director's Report Outline.

Randy Myrum provided the Director's Report.

10. August 2026 Live Lines.

Adjourn

Motion by Sanderson, seconded by Finkler, to adjourn at 8:11 pm. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

*A quorum of city committees and/or commissions may be present at this meeting. No action will be taken or considered by those committees and/or commissions.



Agenda Item Report

Meeting Type: Utility Commission

Meeting Date: September 24, 2026

Item Title: Consider and take action on Financial Reports.

Submitted By: Michelle Kaltenberg, Business Manager

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

Included in the Financial Reports are the Treasurer's Report and the Cash Disbursements Report.

The Accounts Payable Report will be sent via email on the Wednesday before the Commission meeting.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. The Cash Disbursements Report

Action Requested of Commission:

1. Review and approve the Cash Disbursements Report and the Accounts Payable Report.

CITY OF COLUMBUS - COLUMBUS UTILITIES
TREASURER'S REPORT - AUGUST 2026

Item #2.

GENERAL FUND (commingled cash) - ACCOUNT #1310

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	2,383,421.51
Receipts:	\$	1,366,843.85
Interest Earned:		
Sub-total:	\$	3,750,265.36
Disbursements:	\$	(1,519,004.35)
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	2,231,261.01

NOTE: Conventional utility accounting standards recommend a balance equal to two month's expenses - approx. \$1,400,000 (LGIP & Checking).

UTILITY GENERAL FUND - LGIP #13 - ACCOUNT #1314

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	539,624.54
Receipts:	\$	15,500.00
Interest Earned:	\$	1,704.05
Sub-total:	\$	556,828.59
Disbursements:		
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	556,828.59

MRB PRINCIPAL & INTEREST - LGIP #5 - ACCOUNT #1255

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	345,308.99
Receipts:	\$	30,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$	1,102.64
Sub-total:	\$	376,411.63
Disbursements:		
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	376,411.63

NOTE: Transfers are made monthly to accrue sufficient funds to make May 1 and November 1 principal & interest payments.

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #4 - SEWER UTILITY GENERAL FUNDS

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	1,281.87
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	4.03
Sub-total:	\$	1,285.90
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	1,285.90

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #11 - COLLECTION MAIN - REPLACEMENT

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	912,468.30
Receipts:		
Interest Earned:	\$	2,865.50
Sub-total:	\$	915,333.80
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	915,333.80

WWTP REPLACEMENT FUNDS - LGIP #9

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	243,238.37
Receipts:	\$	15,460.00
Interest Earned:	\$	773.26
Sub-total:	\$	259,471.63
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	259,471.63

CW&L RESERVE FUND - F&M - ACCOUNT #1251

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	434,992.74
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	-
Sub-total:	\$	434,992.74
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	434,992.74

F&M Bank/CDAR 52 Week Certificate of Deposit:

\$170,211.28 Due June 2026 3.70%; \$170,211.28 Due December 2026 4.25%; \$94,570.18 Due July 2027 3.70%

E-3-P ENHANCED ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM - F&M - ACCOUNT #1313

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	144,870.92
Receipts:	\$	1,485.89
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :		
Sub-total:	\$	146,356.81
Disbursements:		
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	146,356.81

CW&L DEPRECIATION - LGIP #6 - ACCOUNT #1266

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	636,327.96
Receipts:	\$	5,000.00
Interest Earned:	\$	2,001.35
Sub-total:	\$	643,329.31
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	643,329.31

NOTE: Bond covenants require a "depreciation fund" with recommended balance of \$300,000 to cover plant renewals and replacements.

SEWER UTILITY - LGIP #8 - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	514,012.30
Receipts:		
Interest Earned:	\$	1,614.19
Sub-total:	\$	515,626.49
Disbursements:	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	515,626.49

SEWER UTILITY - F&M SAVINGS - BOND REDEMPTION/RESERVE

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	237,176.72
Receipts:		
Interest Earned (pd semi-annually May/Nov) :		
Sub-total:	\$	237,176.72
Disbursements:		
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	237,176.72

WWTP FALL RIVER RESTRICTED REPLACEMENT FUNDS - F&M CDARS

CASH ON HAND - BEGINNING OF MONTH:	\$	1,065,564.23
Receipts:	\$	-
Interest Earned:	\$	-
Sub-total:	\$	1,065,564.23
Withdrawal from CDAR :	\$	-
Cash on Hand - Month End:	\$	1,065,564.23

F&M Bank/CDAR (2) - Interest paid out and deposited to Checking

\$99,1581.43 Due August 2026 3.70%; \$73,982.80 Due September 2026 3.65%

F&M Union Bank-Checking/Savings	0.4% / 0.75%	Local Gov't. Investment Pool	3.70%
Farmers & Merchants Bank - CDARS	3.65%-4.25%		

COLUMBUS UTILITIES
CASH DISBURSEMENTS REPORT
AUGUST, 2026

09-Sep-26

DATE	CHECK NO	NAME	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
20-Aug	25119	ALLMAX	\$3,304.00	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE & SUPPORT PROGRAM SUBSCRIPTION
20-Aug	25120	AMARIL UNIFORM COMPANY	\$334.98	FR CLOTHES FOR DALTON-2026
20-Aug	25121	AMBUSH PEST CONTROL, LLC	\$120.00	ADMIN BLDG RODEN CONTROL AND SUBSTATION RODENT CONTROL
20-Aug	25122	ANTHONY DERR	\$312.57	CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT
20-Aug	25123	AQUAFIX	\$681.34	BUG ON A ROPE SR (CASE OF 4)
20-Aug	25124	BAKER TILLY US, LLP	\$10,905.00	2025 AUDIT SERVICES & REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
20-Aug	25125	BASSETT MECHANICAL	\$2,003.00	GAS PRESSURE LOCKOUT, NEED TO REPAIR IN SOLIDS BUILDING, REPLACE GAS REGULATOR ON BOILER ON BOILER #1 BUILDING 30
20-Aug	25126	BOARDMAN & CLARK LLP	\$125.00	CORRESPOND W/ DALTON HILEY REGARDING WESTPHAL EASEMENT
20-Aug	25127	BORDER STATES ELECTRIC	\$102,171.64	4.16 KV CONVERSION, PIN INSULATORS, CONDUIT, 2000 KVA 3 PHASE TRANSFORMER, (12) STANDOFF BUSHINGS
20-Aug	25128	BROZEK & O'BRIEN EXCAVATING	\$195.00	TRUCKING OF STONE
20-Aug	25129	BURKE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	\$1,046.88	TRUCK #43 GO LIGHT, GT LED HYDRID, 12V, PERM MOUNT, WIRELESS REM, WIRELESS REMOTE
20-Aug	25130	CATHLEEN HOFFMAN	\$240.20	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
20-Aug	25132	CITY OF COLUMBUS	\$144,321.83	MONTHLY PILOT PAYMENT, SALARIES, PHONE REIMBURSEMENT, 2026 WEST SCHOOL ST RECONSTRUCTION, GFL, BACKGROUND CHECKS
20-Aug	25133	CITY OF LAKE MILLS UTILITIES	\$2,305.47	MUTAL AID 7/6/2026
20-Aug	25134	CORE & MAIN LP	\$1,678.78	CUTTER CPVC COPPER TUBING, CUTTER WHEEL FOR COPPER FITS, ABBOTT RUBBER TEST SINGLE JACKET FIRE HOSE ASSEMBLY
20-Aug	25135	CRAIG SCHULTZ	\$369.22	BOOT REIMBURSEMENT
20-Aug	25136	CTW CORPORATION	\$7,066.00	WP #1 PUMP REPAIRS
20-Aug	25137	CULLIGAN WATER	\$66.00	PE-DI RENT 8/1-8/31, DI REGENERATION CHARGE
20-Aug	25138	ELECTRICAL TESTING LABORATORY	\$974.19	PR GLOVES TESTED, NEW REPLACEMENT GLOVES, SLEEVES TESTED
20-Aug	25139	FIRST SUPPLY	\$604.87	REPAIR SLEEVE
20-Aug	25140	FORSTER ELECTRICAL	\$46,516.25	4.16KV CONVERSION, SUBSTATION #2 UPGRADE, DISTRIBUTION PLANNING & REGULATORY APPROVAL, SCADA COMMUNICATION TROUBLESHOOTING
20-Aug	25141	GRAINGER, INC	\$312.89	TRUCK #45 TOGGLE SWITCH, TOGGLE SWITCH COVER, PROBE 3IN PLASTIC
20-Aug	25142	HAMMES FIRE & SAFETY	\$200.00	ANNUAL INSPECTION OF BUILDING FIRE ALARM SYSTEM
20-Aug	25143	HAWKINS, INC	\$2,205.77	WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS
20-Aug	25144	HYDROCORP, LLC	\$1,960.00	CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM
20-Aug	25145	ICS MEDICAL ANSWERING SERVICE,	\$261.00	PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE - E, PHONE ANSWERING SERVICE - W
20-Aug	25146	INFOSEND, INC.	\$1,917.68	UTILITY BILL PRINTING AND MAILING - E, S, W; RENEWABLE REBATES BILL INSERT
20-Aug	25147	J & R UNDERGROUND, LLC	\$47,634.55	PRAIRIE RIDGE EXPANSION, SCHOOL STREET, 4.16KV CONVERSION
20-Aug	25148	JAC II DEVELOPMENT	\$152.94	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
20-Aug	25149	JEREMY ROLL	\$94.78	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE 2026
20-Aug	25150	JOHN POPP	\$96.22	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
20-Aug	25151	JUNEAU UTILITIES	\$3,231.95	MUTUAL AID WORK 7/6; MUTUAL AID WORK 4/14-STORM REPAIRS 226001
20-Aug	25152	KRISTIE GALLEGOS	\$174.53	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
20-Aug	25153	LAUREN KELLY	\$373.84	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
20-Aug	25154	LAURENCE & DEBORAH NEUMAN	\$15.77	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
20-Aug	25155	MADISON GRAPHICS CO	\$3,050.00	TRUCK #43 DECALS/CERAMIC COATING
20-Aug	25156	MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO	\$164.58	WP#1 BRINE SYSTEM
20-Aug	25157	MICHEL'S ROAD & STONE, INC	\$1,669.06	CLEARSTONE, ROAD GRAVEL
20-Aug	25158	MID-STATE EQUIPMENT, INC.	\$27.72	BELT FOR THE LAWN MOWER
20-Aug	25159	MIDWEST METER INC.	\$19,983.00	WP1-INFLUENT METER, WP2-INFLUENT & EFFLUENT METER
20-Aug	25160	MIDWEST SALT	\$7,331.63	BULK SALT
20-Aug	25161	MUNICIPAL WELL & PUMP	\$4,470.00	REMOVE AND REPLACE WATER PLANT METERS
20-Aug	25162	NCL OF WISCONSIN, INC	\$1,124.42	WASTEWATER DAILY TESTING MATERIAL / DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING MATERIALS
20-Aug	25163	NIEMANN FOODS, INC	\$1,663.89	FUSES, PIPE SEALANT, HAND CLEANER, BATTERIES, MARKING WAND, PLIERS, TRUCK #32 TOOLS, SHIPPING WATER SAMPLES, LEAD SAMPLING, DUPLEX NAIL/
20-Aug	25164	OPENPOINT	\$1,250.00	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION - E, MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION - W
20-Aug	25165	O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE INC	\$46.90	BUTT SPlice; UTV ROCKER SWITCH, TERMINAL KIT, STAR SOCKET
20-Aug	25166	PRIMUS MARKETING GROUP, I	\$12,522.96	40-12S METERS, 4-9S METERS
20-Aug	25167	RED BUD PLAYERS	\$175.00	AD FOR RED BUD PLAYERS
20-Aug	25169	RUEKERT & MIELKE, INC	\$9,996.71	WATER SCADA SERVICE WORK, HERITAGE WAY WATER MAIN EXTENSION, FIRE FLOW TEST/REVIEW, 2026 RISK AND RESILIENCY UPDATES, WATER QUALITY T
20-Aug	25170	STATE OF WISCONSIN DOA	\$5,620.75	PUBLIC BENEFITS FY26 Q4
20-Aug	25171	STUART C IRBY CO	\$8,130.14	FREIGHT CHARGE, HARDWARE MINOR MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT BRACKET, PROTECTOR GLOVES
20-Aug	25172	SUPERIOR CHEMICAL, LLC	\$309.53	MULTIFOLD PREM TAD WHITE; BATH TISSUE, BLACK LINERS, WIPES CLEANER/DISINFECT

20-Aug	25173	TED & SAMANTHA PETRIE	\$122.21	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
20-Aug	25174	USA BLUE BOOK	\$5,710.57	ALL WEATHER SUCTION HOSE, TNT AMMONIA TEST, FOOT VALVE DUCTILE IRON, DAILY WASTEWATER TESTING, 6" COUPLERS, FLOAT SWITCH/WIRE, OBOC
20-Aug	25175	USIC LOCATING SERVICES, IN	\$2,422.36	LOCATING EXPENSES - E, LOCATING EXPENSES - W
20-Aug	25176	VC3, INC	\$297.07	NETWORK SECURITY/FIREWALL LIC/SUB-E
20-Aug	25177	WILLIAM/REID LTD LLC	\$770.54	VALVE, DIAPHRAGM PARTS KIT, SHIPPING & HANDLING
20-Aug	25178	WISCONSIN AMBASSADORS O	\$200.00	BRONZE SPONSORS
20-Aug	25179	WISCONSIN BACKFLOW TESTING	\$600.00	ANNUAL BACKFLOW INSPECTION, VALVE, TEST SUBMITTAL FEE
20-Aug	25180	WISEGUYS AUTO REPAIR, LLC	\$2,889.79	TRUCK #43 MOUNT FOR ROTATING SPOT LIGHT, LED LIGHTBAR, STROBE
20-Aug	25181	WRIGHT PLUMBING	\$5,000.00	PROOF OF REPLACEMENT LEAD LATERAL (LOAN) WATER REPLACEMENT
20-Aug	25182	WRWA	\$0.00	Voided
20-Aug	25183	ZACHARIAH PARPART	\$240.20	REFUND OVER PAID UTILITIES
20-Aug	25184	PUBLIC SERVICE COMM OF WI	\$1,535.69	APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT UPGRADES AND REPLACE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
		SUBTOTAL	\$481,298.86	
01-Aug	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$10.00	NSF Fees
20-Aug	ACH-4924	BROOK M ANDLER	\$50.00	MONTHLY COMMISSION SALARY
20-Aug	ACH-4925	JACK SANDERSON	\$50.00	MONTHLY COMMISSION SALARY
20-Aug	ACH-4926	LORI KOENIG-FRY	\$50.00	MONTHLY COMMISSION SALARY
20-Aug	ACH-4927	MICHAEL THOM	\$50.00	MONTHLY COMMISSION SALARY
20-Aug	ACH-4928	SANDRA CURTIS	\$50.00	MONTHLY COMMISSION SALARY
20-Aug	ACH-4929	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$135.00	WASTEWATER SPECTRUM
20-Aug	ACH-4930	CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY	\$71.33	FIRST AID SUPPLIES - E, W
05-Aug	ACH-4931	KWIK TRIP EXTENDED NETWORK	\$124.97	CITY JULY 2 FUEL
05-Aug	ACH-4932	PAYMENT SERVICE NETWORK	\$3,790.25	CUSTOMER PAYMENT FEE - E, S, W
20-Aug	ACH-4933	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$2,631.53	IT AGREEMENT - ELECTRIC, WASTEWATER, WATER
18-Aug	ACH-4934	WE ENERGIES	\$38.69	NATURAL GAS SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING - E, W
05-Aug	ACH-4935	WEX BANK	\$3,305.03	FUEL - E, W, WW
13-Aug	ACH-4936	WI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	\$12,400.67	SALES AND USE TAX
28-Aug	ACH-4937	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$19,670.14	MENASHA TORNADO MUTUAL AID; WPPI ANNUAL MEETING LODGING; LAPTOP/MONITOR/CABLES/POSTAGE/EMAIL; IPADS/SCADA PHONE/PAPER; GATORA
17-Aug	ACH-4938	KWIK TRIP EXTENDED NETWORK	\$426.62	FUEL - MENASHA AID; FUEL
18-Aug	ACH-4939	WE ENERGIES	\$16.52	GENERATOR ON JAMES ST
28-Aug	ACH-4940	WPPI ENERGY	\$735,772.06	SHARED METER TECH; WAN/ASSESSMENT/CYBER SECURITY; ELECTRIC & WATER MDM CHARGES; NORTHSTAR/DYNAMICS/RETAIL BILLING; GIS SERVICE; PUR
18-Aug	ACH-4941	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$100.00	INTERNET ADMIN BUILDING - E, W
24-Aug	ACH-4942	RHYME BUSINESS PRODUCTS	\$294.77	PRINTER AGREEMENT - ELECTRIC, WASTEWATER, WATER
18-Aug	ACH-4943	WE ENERGIES	\$105.69	TREATMENT PLANT
19-Aug	ACH-4944	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	\$119.99	INTERNET ELECTRIC SCADA
19-Aug	ACH-4945	WE ENERGIES	\$15.39	WESTSIDE SEWAGE LIFT
19-Aug	ACH-4946	WE ENERGIES	\$12.07	WASTE WATER PUMP STATION
19-Aug	ACH-4947	WE ENERGIES	\$0.02	WATERLOO ST LIFT STATION
19-Aug	ACH-4948	WE ENERGIES	\$12.07	119 MIDDLETON ST LIFT STATION
19-Aug	ACH-4949	WE ENERGIES	\$9.90	NATURAL GAS SERVICE WATER PLANT #2
24-Aug	ACH-4950	SEERA	\$1,947.31	FOCUS ON ENERGY PAYMENT
21-Aug	ACH-4955	FP Mailing	\$800.00	Postage
07-Aug	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$54,281.05	Net Payroll for 2nd Payroll in August #16
07-Aug	ACH -4908	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$1,431.10	State Withholding Payroll #16
07-Aug	ACH-4906	NORTH SHORE BANK	\$300.00	PAYROLL DEFRRAL NORTHSHORE PAYROLL #16
07-Aug	ACH -4905	EFTPS	\$13,934.10	FICA/FED/MED Withholding Payroll #16
07-Aug	ACH -4907	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$2,330.81	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #16
21-Aug	ACH	CWL Net Payroll	\$41,161.93	Net Payroll for 2nd Payroll in August #17
21-Aug	ACH -4923	Wisconsin Department of Revenue	\$1,908.52	State Withholding Payroll #17
21-Aug	ACH-4921	NORTH SHORE BANK	\$300.00	PAYROLL DEFRRAL NORTHSHORE PAYROLL #17
21-Aug	ACH -4920	EFTPS	\$13,280.19	FICA/FED/MED Withholding Payroll #17
21-Aug	ACH -4922	WI Deferred Comp Board	\$2,381.77	Payroll Deferral Billing for Payroll #17
21-Aug	ACH-4909	City of Columbus-AFLAC	\$82.42	Employees Aflac-August
21-Aug	ACH-4910	City of Columbus - Retirement	\$19,808.70	Employees Retirement - August
21-Aug	ACH-4911	City of Columbus - Health	\$29,337.62	Employees Health Insurance - August
21-Aug	ACH-4912	City of Columbus - Life	\$544.31	Employees Life Insurance - August
21-Aug	ACH-4913	City of Columbus - Dental	\$1,564.76	Employees Dental Insurance - August
21-Aug	ACH-4914	City of Columbus - Vision	\$195.20	Employees Vision Insurance - August

21-Aug	ACH-4915	City of Columbus - Health Savings A	\$2,838.82	Employees Health Savings Account Transfer - August
21-Aug	ACH-4916	City of Columbus - LTD	\$348.06	Employees LTD-August
21-Aug	ACH-4917	City of Columbus-Assurity	\$723.62	Employees Assurity-August
21-Aug	ACH-4918	City of Columbus-Champ Plan	\$6,889.92	Employees Champ Plan-August
22-Aug	ACH-4919	City of Columbus - Champ Benefit	(\$5,593.92)	Employees Champ Benefit-August
15-Aug	ACH	Investment Pool	\$30,000.00	June Bond Interest Payment
16-Aug	ACH	Investment Pool	\$5,000.00	June Depreciation Payment
17-Aug	ACH	Investment Pool	\$15,500.00	Transfer into LGIP #13 General Fund
18-Aug	ACH	Investment Pool	\$15,460.00	TRANSFER INTO LGIP #9-UTILITY GENERAL FUND
15-Aug	ACH	EP3	\$1,485.89	E3P Transfer
29-Aug	ACH	Farmers & Merchants Union Bank	\$150.60	ACH Fees
		SUBTOTAL	\$1,037,705.49	

TOTAL \$1,519,004.35 APPROVED BY:

DATE:

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION #1 CIRCUIT # 103 DATE 8 / 1 / 26
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 4E / 32 / 98
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION _____
 REMARKS TRANSFORMER Lead s melt / Burn off

Item #3.

PART THAT FAILED

- 0 None
- 1 Numerous
- 2 Other-note in remarks
- 3 Transmission equipment
- 4 Substation equipment
- O.H. DISTRIBUTION

- 10 Anchor or guy
- 11 Arrestor
- 12 Conductor – Primary
- 13 “ - Secondary
- 14 Connector
- 21 Insulator
- 24 Metering equipment
- 25 Pole
- 26 Recloser
- 27 Riser or Jumper
- 28 Splice
- 29 Switch - GOAB
- 30 “ - Disc.
- 31 Cutout - Fused
- 32 Transformer – Line
- 33 Transformer – Potential

U.G. DISTRIBUTION

- 50 Arrestor
- 51 Conductor – Primary
- 52 “ - Secondary
- 53 Connector – Bolted
- 54 “ - Comp.
- 55 “ - Elbow
- 56 “ - Splice
- 59 Terminator
- 60 Transformer – Pad Mount
- 61 Transformer – Bayonet Fuse
- 62 Metering Equipment

WEATHER

- 1 Normal
- 2 Wind
- 3 Thunderstorm
- 4 Rain
- 5 Rain and wind
- 6 Fog
- 7 Ice
- 8 Ice and wind
- 9 Snow
- 10 Extreme cold
- 11 Extreme heat
- 12 Extreme storm

CAUSE

- 0 Unknown
- 1 Loss of supply
- 2 Operating error
- 3 Circuit overload
- 4 Mis-coordination
- 5 Faulty installation
- 6 Lightning
- 7 Wind
- 8 Ice
- 9 Cold weather
- 10 Hot Weather
- 11 Moisture
- 12 Contamination
- 13 Fire
- 14 Extreme storm

FOREIGN OBJECTS

- 20 Vehicles
- 22 Trees – tore down
- 23 Trees – shorted
- 24 Animals
- 25 Birds
- 26 Underground dig in
- 27 Vandalism
- 28 Other

EQUIPMENT

- 30 Manufacturing defect
- 31 Equipment overload
- 32 Electrical failure
- 33 Worn out

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF 2215 ON 2300

Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers	Minutes Duration
<u>6</u>	<u>55</u>

TRANSFORMER FAILURE

CWL# _____ KVA _____

MFG _____ AGE (est) _____

Serial # _____

Arrester ON / OFF Tank (circle one)

ARRESTOR FAILURE

MFR _____ Porc Polymer
 Riser Line Transformer
 (circle all that apply)

DEVICE THAT OPENED

Distribution
Main Feeder

Breaker _____ Counter _____

Targets _____

Branch Line

O.C.R. _____ Size _____
 Fuse _____ Size _____

Transformer

Fuse _____ Transf. Size _____

ROUTING (initial)

Responded By JB

Line Assisted By _____

Assisted By CFD

Manager DH

Outage File _____

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT CUSTOMER OUTAGE REPORT

SUBSTATION 4 CIRCUIT # 403 DATE 8/16/2020 Item #3.
 LOCATION OF FUSE OR RECLOSER 6D/59/98
 CUSTOMER NAME OR LOCATION Gawn Gemeinder 206 Sunset Circle
 REMARKS _____

PART THAT FAILED

- 0 None
 1 Numerous
 2 Other-note in remarks
 3 Transmission equipment
 4 Substation equipment
O.H. DISTRIBUTION

- 10 Anchor or guy
 11 Arrester
 12 Conductor – Primary
 13 “ – Secondary
 14 Connector
 21 Insulator
 24 Metering equipment
 25 Pole
 26 Recloser
 27 Riser or Jumper
 28 Splice
 29 Switch – GOAB
 30 “ – Disc.
 31 Cutout – Fused
 32 Transformer – Line
 33 Transformer – Potential

U.G. DISTRIBUTION

- 50 Arrester
 51 Conductor – Primary
 52 “ – Secondary
 53 Connector – Bolted
 54 “ – Comp.
 55 “ – Elbow
 56 “ – Splice
 59 Terminator
 60 Transformer – Pad Mount
 61 Transformer – Bayonet Fuse
 62 Metering Equipment

WEATHER

- 1 Normal
 2 Wind
 3 Thunderstorm
 4 Rain
 5 Rain and wind
 6 Fog
 7 Ice
 8 Ice and wind
 9 Snow
 10 Extreme cold
 11 Extreme heat
 12 Extreme storm

CAUSE

- 0 Unknown
 1 Loss of supply
 2 Operating error
 3 Circuit overload
 4 Mis-coordination
 5 Faulty installation
 6 Lightning
 7 Wind
 8 Ice
 9 Cold weather
 10 Hot Weather
 11 Moisture
 12 Contamination
 13 Fire
 14 Extreme storm

FOREIGN OBJECTS

- 20 Vehicles
 22 Trees – tore down
 23 Trees – shorted
24 Animals
 25 Birds
 26 Underground dig in
 27 Vandalism
 28 Other

EQUIPMENT

- 30 Manufacturing defect
 31 Equipment overload
 32 Electrical failure
 33 Worn out

(use 24 hour time)

TIME OFF 7:44 ON 8:25Number of Calls 1

Number of Customers	Minutes Duration
<u>3</u>	<u>40 Min</u>

TRANSFORMER FAILURE

CWL# _____ KVA _____

MFG _____ AGE (est) _____

Serial # _____

Arrester ON / OFF Tank (circle one)

ARRESTOR FAILURE

MFR _____ Porc Polymer
 Riser Line Transformer
 (circle all that apply)

DEVICE THAT OPENED

Distribution
Main Feeder

Breaker _____ Counter _____

Targets _____

Branch Line

O.C.R. _____ Size _____
 Fuse α Size 10T

Transformer

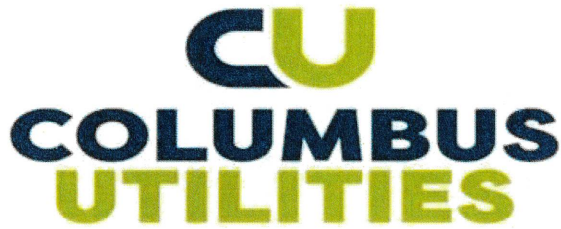
Fuse _____ Transf. Size _____

ROUTING (initial)Responded By Jeff HeckeLine Assisted By Mason

Assisted By _____

Manager _____

Outage File _____



City of Columbus, WI
Department of Utilities & Public Works

From the Office of the Director of Utilities
& Public Works

Date: September 24, 2026
To: Utility Commission
From: Columbus Utility Staff

Re: Consideration of Resolution Recommending that the Columbus Utility Commission Approve Amendment #3 to Long-Term Power Supply Contract for Participating Members

The City of Columbus has been a member-owner of WPPI Energy (WPPI) since its inception in 1980. That year, 23 municipally owned electric utilities formed WPPI. The goal was to obtain power supply for our community at reasonable, stable costs over an extended period. Prior to WPPI we were subject to frequent wholesale rate hikes from investor-owned utilities (IOU's).

In 1989, WPPI members (including Columbus) took another step to long-term energy cost stabilization when the City approved a 35-year (until 2024) all-requirements power supply contract. This allowed WPPI to purchase and own all, or a portion of, energy generation facilities.

With changes to the industry and the need to control cost by owning generation, Amendment #1 was approved in 2002. Although the 35-year agreement still had 22 years remaining, this 13-year extension (until 2037) enabled WPPI to purchase and finance long-term power supply resources. The financing made available by the extension allowed for the purchase of additional generating facilities including a wholly owned gas peaking plant in Kaukauna. WPPI was also able to contract for wind, nuclear and gas power supplies under purchased power agreements and become a transmission owner.

Amendment #2 was approved in 2015 to extend our agreement to purchase WPPI power another 18 years (until 2055). As with the previous amendment, the extension allowed for additional renewable energy contracts and partial ownership of new transmission facilities.

WPPI Energy is requesting another 18-year extension (until 2073) to the long-term power supply contract under Amendment #3. The energy industry is experiencing significant growth due in large part to electrification in transportation and industry as well as rapid

development of data centers to support AI and other advances in technology. This growth has led to constraints in the energy and capacity markets as well as additional opportunities to continue to invest in transmission assets. To continue to source reliable and reasonably priced power supply, WPPI must remain proactive by seeking both its own as well as shared opportunities to obtain capacity and generation options and to continue to invest up to at least its load-share ratio in transmission.

Effective participation in the energy industry necessitates long-term planning given the extensive development time and high cost to develop such long-lived assets. Extending the financing period for these investments (often 30-40 years) spreads these costs over a lengthy period resulting in greater rate predictability and stability for ratepayers. Thus, the need to extend the current contract to 2073.

Columbus and its ratepayers have benefited from our 46-year ownership/partnership with WPPI. As indicated above, WPPI has a proven record of being proactive in making strategic moves to stay competitive in the industry. They have proven over time their mission to listen and respond to the needs of the members.

Beyond power supply, the services provided by WPPI to its member communities place us on at least even ground with the most technically advanced IOU's. These are services that our community would likely not be able to afford on its own. WPPI's joint purchasing program ensures that competitive pricing is available for all members to again place us on equal footing with much larger entities.

Our ownership in WPPI is the key component in the low energy rates our community members pay compared to almost all other non-municipal utilities in the state. A typical Columbus Utility (CU) residential customer pays 35% less per month for energy than a similar customer in the neighboring IOU territory. Of course, low rates only have value if the power is on. Reliability and redundancy in CU's distribution ranks in the top 10% of energy providers in our region. Competitive rates and reliable service attract businesses and visitors to our community, while at the same time ensuring that our residents are not burdened by high costs and poor service. The relationship between WPPI and the City of Columbus has served us well for the last forty-six years. Because we have a strong presence within the organization and a say in the direction of the business, we expect the next four decades plus will be equally successful for our community.

Staff advises that the Utility Commission recommend the City Council's approval of the resolution to accept Amendment #3 to the Long-Term Power Supply Contract With WPPI.

Thank you for your consideration.

**COLUMBUS COMMON COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO LONG TERM POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT
FOR PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus (the “Member”) is a member of WPPI Energy (“WPPI”) and, like all other WPPI members, takes long-term all-requirements electric service from WPPI pursuant to a long-term power supply contract (each, a “Long Term Contract”);

WHEREAS, the Long Term Contract between the Member and WPPI is that certain *Long Term Power Supply Contract for Participating Members* dated as of July 18, 1989, as amended (the “Member’s Contract”);

WHEREAS, the current term of the Member’s Contract and each other Long Term Contract will expire on or before December 31, 2055;

WHEREAS, WPPI’s revenues under the Long Term Contracts have been pledged to secure the bonds issued by WPPI to finance ownership of WPPI’s generating units and transmission assets;

WHEREAS, it is necessary that WPPI members extend the existing terms of the Long Term Contracts in order to enable WPPI to plan for, obtain, contract for, purchase and finance new long-term power supply resources, including, but not limited to, new generating plants;

WHEREAS, the Member desires that WPPI be able to secure and finance new long term power supply resources so that WPPI is able to continue serving the Member and all other members reliably and at competitive and stable rates under the Long Term Contracts over the long term and WPPI wishes to be able to make new long-term commitments in order to be able to do so;

WHEREAS, the parties wish to extend the term of the Member’s Contract, as set forth in the amendment referred to in the caption of this Resolution (the “Amendment”); and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Utility Commission has recommended that the City approve and execute the Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Columbus Common Council:

1. That the Amendment, the form of which has been presented to the Columbus Common Council, is hereby approved;
2. That the Mayor and the City Clerk are directed to execute and deliver the Amendment to WPPI on behalf of the Member to be in substantially the form presented to the Columbus Common Council. The Mayor and City Clerk and other appropriate City officials, including the City Attorney, also are directed to take all other actions on behalf of the Member as may be necessary to effectuate the Amendment, subject to the requirement of Section 3 of the Amendment, which provides that if, by February 26, 2027, fewer than thirty-four (34) WPPI Participating Members approve an amendment extending the terms of their respective Long Term Contracts to midnight on December 31, 2073, the Amendment shall be null and void and shall have no force and effect;

3. That the Member agrees to be bound by the terms of the Amendment as executed by the Member.

Introduced by _____

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

Passed by the Columbus Common Council on the _____ day of _____, 20____, and submitted to the Mayor and City Clerk on the _____ day of _____, 20____. Approved this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Mayor

Print Name

State of _____)

) ss

County of _____)

I, _____, City Clerk of the City of Columbus, Wisconsin, hereby certify that I have compared the above Resolution with the original instrument on file in my office and that the same is a true, complete and correct copy of said document.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporation Seal of the City of Columbus, Wisconsin, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

City Clerk

Print Name

**AMENDMENT NO. 3
TO LONG TERM POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT
FOR PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

This *Amendment No. 3 to Long Term Power Supply Contract for Participating Members* (this "Amendment"), dated as of _____, 202__ (the "Effective Date"), is made by and between WPPI Energy, a municipal electric company ("WPPI"), and the City of Columbus (the "Member"). WPPI and the Member are sometimes referred to in this Amendment individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties."

RECITALS

A. The Member is a member of WPPI and, like all other Participating Members, takes long-term all-requirements electric service from WPPI pursuant to a long-term power supply contract (each, a "Long Term Contract").

B. In this Amendment, the term "the Member's Contract" refers to the *Long Term Power Supply Contract for Participating Members* between WPPI and the Member dated as of July 18, 1989 (as subsequently amended), the current initial term of which will expire immediately following December 31, 2055.

C. WPPI's revenues under the Long Term Contracts have been pledged to secure the bonds issued by WPPI to finance ownership of WPPI's generating units and transmission assets.

D. It is necessary that Participating Members extend the existing terms of the Long Term Contracts in order to enable WPPI to plan for, obtain, contract for, purchase, and finance new long-term power supply resources, including, but not limited to, new generating plants.

E. The Member wishes that WPPI be able to secure and finance long-term power supply resources so that WPPI is able to continue serving the Member and all other Participating Members reliably and at competitive and stable rates under the Long Term Contracts over the long term, and WPPI wishes to be able to make new long-term commitments in order to do so.

F. The Parties desire to further amend the Member's Contract on the terms and conditions set forth in this Amendment to extend the initial term of the Member's Contract.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated into and made a part of this Amendment, the promises contained in this Amendment and the Member's Contract, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Definitions. All capitalized definitional terms used but not otherwise defined in this Amendment shall have the meanings given to those terms in the Member's Contract.

2. Initial Term and Termination. The first sentence of Section 9(a) of the Member's Contract is hereby deleted and replaced in its entirety with the following:

This Contract shall take effect upon the date first written above and shall remain in effect for an initial term that ends at midnight on December 31, 2073, and thereafter until terminated by notice as provided in this Section 9(a).

3. Effective Date. This Amendment, upon execution by the Parties, shall take effect as of the Effective Date, provided however, that if, by February 26, 2027, fewer than thirty-four (34) Participating Members have executed an amendment extending the initial terms of their respective Long Term Contracts to midnight on December 31, 2073, this Amendment shall be null and void and shall have no force and effect. Prior to April 1, 2027, WPPI shall certify in writing to each Participating Member that has executed such an amendment (including the Member) whether this threshold has been met.

4. Miscellaneous. In the event of conflict between the provisions of the Member's Contract and the provisions of this Amendment, the provisions of this Amendment shall control. Except as specifically set forth herein, no other amendments to the Member's Contract are being made between the Parties, and all other provisions of the Member's Contract remain in full force and effect. This Amendment may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WPPI and the Member have duly approved and executed this Amendment as of the Effective Date.

WPPI ENERGY

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

CITY OF COLUMBUS

By: _____
Mayor

By: _____
City Clerk

By: _____
President, Columbus Utility Commission

**RESOLUTION OF THE COLUMBUS UTILITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDING
THAT THE COLUMBUS COMMON COUNCIL APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO
LONG TERM POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus (the "Member") is a member of WPPI Energy ("WPPI") and, like all other WPPI members, takes long-term all-requirements electric service from WPPI pursuant to a long-term power supply contract (each, a "Long Term Contract");

WHEREAS, the Long Term Contract between the Member and WPPI is that certain *Long Term Power Supply Contract for Participating Members* dated as of July 18, 1989, as amended (the "Member's Contract");

WHEREAS, the current term of the Member's Contract and each other Long Term Contract will expire on or before December 31, 2055;

WHEREAS, WPPI's revenues under the Long Term Contracts have been pledged to secure the bonds issued by WPPI to finance ownership of WPPI's generating units and transmission assets;

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus has vested in the Columbus Utility Commission authority and responsibility for management of Columbus Water & Light;

WHEREAS, the Columbus Utility Commission has determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Columbus to approve and execute the amendment referred to in the caption of this Resolution (the "Amendment") and that such approval and execution are necessary in order to enable WPPI to plan for, obtain, contract for, purchase, and finance new long-term power supply resources;

WHEREAS, the Columbus Utility Commission desires that WPPI be able to secure and finance new long-term power supply resources so that WPPI is able to continue serving the Member and all other participating members reliably and at competitive and stable rates under the Long Term Contracts over the long term, and WPPI wishes to be able to make new long-term commitments in order to be able to do so; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to extend the term of the Member's Contract, as set forth in the Amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Columbus Utility Commission that the Columbus Utility Commission recommends that the Columbus Common Council approve the Amendment and take all action necessary to execute and deliver the Amendment.

Introduced by _____

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Columbus Utility Commission

By _____
President, Columbus Utility Commission

Print Name

State of _____)
County of _____) ss

I, _____, City Clerk of the City of Columbus, Wisconsin, hereby certify that I have compared the above Resolution with the original instrument on file in my office and that the same is a true, complete and correct copy of said document.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporation Seal of the City of Columbus, Wisconsin, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

City Clerk

Print Name

Consideration and Action Regarding Water & Wastewater Operator Licensing Incentive Pay

At the May 20, 2024, Columbus Utilities Commission meeting, the Commission approved the standardization of Water and Wastewater Utility licensing, including a recommendation that employees receive **\$0.50 per hour for each applicable Water or Wastewater license/certification obtained**, up to the maximum number of approved licenses.

The intent of this compensation structure was to provide an incentive for Water and Wastewater Operators to obtain and maintain additional professional licenses and certifications that benefit Columbus Utilities and increase the employees' qualifications and capabilities.

I am recommending that the **Commission clarify and revise the implementation of the previously approved licensing compensation as follows:**

- Employees shall receive \$0.50 for each approved Water or Wastewater license/ certification successfully obtained and maintained.
- The incentive shall continue to be available for approved Water and Wastewater license/certification subclasses, up to the maximum of 11 licenses/certifications (\$5.50).
- The licensing compensation shall be classified as "Incentive Pay" and shall not be incorporated into the employee's base hourly wage or base salary.
- The Incentive Pay shall be identified and displayed separately on the employee's paycheck/payroll records from the employee's regular base rate.
- Licensing incentive pay shall apply only to hours worked. Incentive pay shall NOT be paid on non-worked paid leave or other compensated time, including but not limited to vacation, sick leave, personal time, compensatory time, stand-by, bereavement leave, holidays, or other paid leave.
- The Incentive Pay shall be paid based upon the employee's qualifying licenses/certifications and shall be subject to applicable payroll, tax, and other statutory requirements.
- This action does not change the previously approved \$0.50 per license/certification per hour incentive amount; it clarifies that the compensation is an incentive payment separate from the employee's base wage.

Requested Commission Action:

The Commission is requested to consider and take action on the Director's recommendation to revise the implementation of the Water and Wastewater licensing compensation approved May 20, 2024, so that the \$0.50 per qualifying license/certification per hour is paid and recorded as separate "Incentive Pay" rather than being incorporated into the employee's base hourly wage.

This is Task Order No. 2026-07
consisting of 6 pages
City of Columbus
2027 Capital Improvement Project

In accordance with the Agreement Amendment between the City of Columbus (Owner) and Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. (Engineer) dated February 20, 2019, Owner and Engineer agree as follows:

1. Specific Project Data

- A. Title: 2027 Capital Improvement Project
- B. Description: This task order includes the data collection, design, and bidding phases for the 2027 Capital Improvement project including:
 - a. Project A: full reconstruction of W Harrison Street from S Dickason Blvd to S Lewis Street, S Spring Street from W School Street to W James Street, and pavement replacement and drainage improvement of the alley between Ingalsbe Street and Stuart Street
 - b. Project B: Parking lot improvements at Fireman's Park Pickleball Court
 - c. Project C: Maple Avenue Edge Mill and Asphalt Overlay in the City of Columbus

2. Services of Engineer

A. PHASE 1

a. DATA COLLECTION

i. Project A

1. Prep work for field (including Digger's Hotline request).
2. Soil boring coordination (R/M will schedule, field mark the borings for location, and survey in location).
3. Topographic survey including control points, property corners, soil borings, utility measure downs, and ground surface data inside and outside the right-of-way.
4. Survey data download, quality control, and preparation for design.
5. Build surface model, create pipe networks, and setup base file drawings.
6. Process and analyze survey data and cadastral mapping.
7. Engineering site visit for field check and site inspection.
8. Soil borings (11 -15' depth borings). R/M will assume one boring per block and per intersection for determination of subsurface conditions for utility replacement and roadway design.
9. Drone flight and processing, capture current aerial imagery and topography.
10. Reimbursable expenses including mileage and survey equipment.

ii. Project B

1. Prep work for field (including Digger's Hotline request).
2. Topographic survey including control points, property corners, soil borings, utility measure downs, and ground surface data.
3. Survey data download, quality control, and preparation for design.
4. Build surface model, create pipe networks, and setup base file drawings.
5. Process and analyze survey data and cadastral mapping.
6. Engineering site visit for field check and site inspection.
7. Drone flight and processing, capture current aerial imagery and topography.
8. Reimbursable expenses including mileage and survey equipment.

iii. Project C

1. Prep work for field (including Digger's Hotline request).
2. Survey data download, quality control, and preparation for design.
3. Build surface model and setup base file drawings.
4. Process and analyze survey data and cadastral mapping.
5. Engineering site visit for field check and site inspection.
6. Drone flight and processing, capture current aerial imagery and topography.
7. Reimbursable expenses including mileage and survey equipment.

B. PHASE 2

a. DESIGN

i. Project A

1. Project administration and Owner coordination.
2. Plan Development.
 - a. Conduct stormwater/drainage analysis.
 - b. Design and Prepare Stormwater Management Plan
 - c. Prepare cover, project notes, typical sections, and construction details.
 - d. Design and prepare erosion control and traffic control drawings and notes.
 - e. Design and prepare roadway and storm sewer plan and profiles.
 - f. Design and prepare water and sanitary sewer plan and profiles.
 - g. Upsize watermain and replace any lead laterals within right-of-way.
 - h. Document and send notifications to residents periodically throughout the project.
 - i. Prepare existing and designed street cross sections.
 - j. Design intersections and prepare drawings.
 - k. Review driveway tie-in elevations.
 - l. Coordinate with utilities in corridor to address replacement, updates and any potential conflicts.
 - m. Measure quantities and prepare Opinion of Probable Construction Cost.
3. QA/QC.
 - a. Review plans for conflicts or issues.
 - b. Confirm plans have addressed Owner and resident feedback.
4. Specification development.
 - a. Prepare specifications – legal and procedural.
 - b. Prepare specifications – technical.
 - c. Complete project manual for Bidding and upload to Quest.

ii. Project B

1. Project administration and Owner coordination.
2. Plan Development.
 - a. Conduct stormwater/drainage analysis.
 - b. Design and Prepare Stormwater Management Plan
 - c. Prepare cover, project notes, typical sections, and construction details.
 - d. Design and prepare erosion control and traffic control drawings and notes.
 - e. Design and prepare storm sewer plan and profiles.
 - f. Design and prepare grading and site plan.
 - g. Coordinate with utilities to address any potential conflicts.
 - h. Measure quantities and prepare Opinion of Probable Construction Cost.

3. QA/QC.
 - a. Review plans for conflicts or issues.
 - b. Confirm plans have addressed Owner and resident feedback.
4. Specification development.
 - a. Prepare specifications – legal and procedural.
 - b. Prepare specifications – technical.
 - c. Complete project manual for Bidding and upload to Quest.

iii. Project C

1. Project administration and Owner coordination.
2. Plan Development.
 - a. Prepare cover, project notes, typical sections, and construction details.
 - b. Design and prepare erosion control and traffic control drawings and notes.
 - c. Design and prepare roadway plan and profiles.
 - d. Document and send notifications to residents periodically throughout the project.
 - e. Prepare existing and designed street cross sections.
 - f. Design intersections and prepare drawings.
 - g. Measure quantities and prepare Opinion of Probable Construction Cost.
3. QA/QC.
 - a. Review plans for conflicts or issues.
 - b. Confirm plans have addressed Owner and resident feedback.
4. Specification development.
 - a. Prepare specifications – legal and procedural.
 - b. Prepare specifications – technical.
 - c. Complete project manual for Bidding and upload to Quest.

C. PHASE 3 - BIDDING (Project A, B, and C)

- a. General coordination with Owner staff.
- b. General coordination with potential bidders.
- c. Addenda preparation.
 - i. Drawing Modifications.
 - ii. Specification Modifications.
- d. Attend bid opening.
- e. Review bids and prepare bid tabulation.
- f. Make formal award recommendations to Client.
- g. Issue Notice of Award to Contractor.
- h. Review contractor information (insurance, agreement, bonding, etc.).
- i. Issue Notice to Proceed.

D. PHASE 4

a. PERMITTING

i. Project A

1. Endangered Resources Review (ER).
2. WDNR Sanitary Sewer.
3. WDNR Watermain.
4. WDNR Stormwater – Construction.

ii. Project B

1. Endangered Resources Review (ER).
2. WDNR Stormwater – Construction.
3. Stormwater Modeling

iii. Project C

1. Endangered Resources Review (ER).
2. WDNR Stormwater – Construction.

E. PHASE 5 – MEETINGS (Project A, B, and C)

- a. Plan review meetings with Owner staff (30%, 60%, and 90%).
- b. Public Information Meetings (2 meetings). (Base Bid A only)
- c. Utility coordination with Columbus Utilities, WE Energies, AT&T, and Charter.

F. PHASE 6 – SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS (Project A)

- a. Obtain surveys and CSMs to review property information.
- b. Prepare draft assessment report.
- c. Attend public hearing.
- d. Finalize proposed preliminary assessment prior to construction.

3. Owner's Responsibilities

The City of Columbus shall have those responsibilities set forth in Section II of Agreement to do the following:

- A. Owner shall confirm attendance to meetings prior to attendance.
- B. Attend utility coordination meetings.
- C. Attend plan review meetings.
- D. Provide existing utility map of information.
- E. Provide approval of selected design and specifications.
- F. Provide timely review of plans.
- G. Provide payment of permitting fees.

4. Items Excluded

The following items are excluded from the Scope of Services:

- A. Any scope that is not specifically listed above.
- B. Permit fees.
- C. Flow monitoring of sewer.
- D. Easement creation and/or survey staking.
- E. Archaeological and historical investigation and permitting.
- F. Title report required to create legal documents.
- G. Follow up site visits, meetings, and certifications.
- H. Contaminated site investigations, coordination, and/or remediation design.
- I. Alternatives analysis.
- J. Value engineering.
- K. Record Drawings.
- L. Boundary survey or property survey.
- M. Real estate appraisal/acquisition.
- N. Permitting (other than listed above).
- O. Public hearings (other than listed above).
- P. Any grant application completion or administration related to this project.

- Q. Any construction related services.
 R. Additional survey for failure for USIC to mark utilities.

5. Times for Rendering Services

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
Authorization/Task Order Approval	10/06/2026
Field Survey	10/09/2026
Public Information Meeting #1	10/22/2026
Preliminary Design	11/06/2026
Public Information Meeting #2	11/12/2026
Final Design	12/10/2026
Final Review and QC	12/31/2026
Advertise for Bid	01/07/2027 and 01/14/2027
Bid Opening	01/28/2027

6. Payments to Engineer

- A. Owner shall pay Engineer for services rendered as follows:

<u>Category of Services</u>	<u>Compensation Method</u>	<u>Estimate of Compensation for Services</u>
Survey	Standard Hourly Rates	\$48,000
Geotechnical	Lump Sum	\$8,184
Design Project A	Standard Hourly Rates	\$97,000
Design Project B	Standard Hourly Rates	\$25,000
Design Project C	Standard Hourly Rates	\$30,000
Bidding	Standard Hourly Rates	\$9,500
Permitting	Standard Hourly Rates	\$17,000
Meetings	Standard Hourly Rates	\$8,500
Special Assessment	Standard Hourly Rates	\$10,800
TOTAL =		\$253,984

Fee Breakdown for Design Only Phase for Street Reconstruction (\$97,000)

Water (29%)	\$28,130
Sanitary Sewer (14%)	\$13,580
Storm Sewer (9%)	\$8,730
Street (49%)	\$47,530

- B. The terms of payment are set forth in the Standard Terms and Conditions.
- C. Terms and Conditions: Execution of this Task Order by the City of Columbus and R/M shall make it subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement (as modified above). Agreement is incorporated by

this reference. R/M is authorized to begin performance upon its receipt of a copy of this Task Order signed by the City of Columbus.

- D. R/M will break out fee on invoice and prorate for different city and utility departments based on departments allocation of construction costs to the overall project cost.

7. Consultants

R/M will use subconsultants for the geotechnical investigation.

8. Other Modifications to Standard Terms and Conditions

N/A

9. Attachments

Project location map

10. Documents Incorporated by Reference

Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. / Columbus Master Agreement

TASK ORDER

Item #6.

TASK ORDER NO. 2026-07
2027 Capital Improvement Project
Between City of Columbus
and
Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.
Dated October 6, 2026

Terms and Conditions: Execution of this Task Order by Owner and Engineer shall make it subject to terms and conditions, (as modified above) set forth in the Master Engineering Agreement Amendment between Owner and Engineer, dated February 20, 2019, which are incorporated by this reference. Engineer is authorized to begin performance upon its receipt of a copy of this Task Order signed by Owner.

The Effective Date of this Task Order is October 6, 2026.

OWNER:

City of Columbus

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

ENGINEER:

Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.

Signature: Jason P. Lietha Digitally signed by Jason P. Lietha
Date: 2026.09.16 20:05:57 -05'00'

Name: Jason P. Lietha, P.E.

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Date: _____

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE FOR TASK ORDER

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Name: Samantha E. Boman, P.E.

Title: Project Engineer

Address: 4630 S, Biltmore Lane
Madison, WI, 53718

Email: sboman@ruekert-mielke.com

Phone: 608-572-7972

This is Task Order No. (2026-03),
consisting of 4 pages
Columbus Utilities
Storm Water Utility Updates and
Implementation

In accordance with Paragraph 1.1 of the Master Professional Service Agreement between Columbus Utilities (Owner) and Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. (Engineer) for Professional Services – Task Order Edition, dated March 19, 2019 ("Agreement"), Owner and Engineer agree as follows:

1. Specific Project Data

- A. Title: Storm Water Utility Updates and Implementation
- B. Description: This task order includes updating the Storm Water Utility ordinance, ERU update, and creating a credit policy as well as general coordination with City and Utility staff for the implementation of the Storm Water Utility rate and fee collection.

2. Services of Engineer

- A. Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) Update
 - a. Review previous data used to calculate ERU from 2021.
 - b. Update non-residential property impervious area's developed since 2021.
 - c. Use GIS to calculate average sample sizes of typical residential property in the City exclusive of multi-family properties.
 - d. Perform calculations to update the ERU using average sample sizes calculated.
- B. Credit Policy Creation
 - a. Engineer shall prepare a draft citywide credit policy framework including eligibility criteria, application requirements, maintenance requirements, inspection provisions, and recommended maximum credit limitations.
 - b. Review credit policies and ordinances from other municipalities
 - c. Review current stormwater management facilities at developments within the City.
 - d. Work with City staff to develop credit policy.
- C. Ordinance Update
 - a. Review current ordinance and recommend changes that include billing process, collection procedures, tax roll certifications, credit administration, appeals process, deletion of referendum language, account ownership, etc.
 - b. Update ordinance to include language for credit policy and rate structure recommendations.
 - c. Work with City staff and attorney to review and edit ordinance.
 - d. Attend Utility Commission and City Council meetings. (Assume 4 meetings)
- D. Utility Staff Support
 - a. Support utility staff for billing account setup
 - b. Troubleshoot issues as they arise
 - c. Meet with Utility staff to discuss billing account setup, testing, etc.
- E. Public Outreach
 - a. Assist with the creation of notices for property owners to be distributed by Utility Staff.
 - b. Create flyers to educate on stormwater utility and how billing will work.
 - c. Hold and attend public hearing/Q&A sessions (Assume 2).

F. Utility Rate Structure Evaluation

- a. Review existing parcel classifications and billing methodology.
- b. Evaluate impacts of owner-based billing, multifamily classifications, tax-exempt properties, and nonresidential properties.
- c. Develop recommended customer classifications for billing purposes.
- d. Provide supporting data and recommendations for financial review by the City's financial advisor.

3. Owner's Responsibilities

Columbus Utilities shall have those responsibilities set forth in Section II of the Agreement, subject to the following:

- A. Owner shall confirm attendance to meetings prior to attendance.
- B. Provide timely review of documents.
- C. Attend meetings with Engineer.
- D. Review rates and final approval.
- E. Create new accounts.
- F. Test run for invoicing.
- G. Create form for review of individual property credit applications.

4. Items Excluded

The following items are excluded from the Scope of Services:

- A. Anything not specifically identified in the Scope of Services above.
- B. Additional meetings not listed in scope.
- C. Any services provided by Ehlers (or another firm) for QA/QC of the rates.
- D. Financial feasibility studies, utility rate certifications, bond analyses, reserve funding studies, and financial advisory services.
- E. Legal review or legal opinions
- F. Utility billing software programming, customizations, integration, or vendor services.
- G. Review of individual credit applications submitted after policy adoption.
- H. Collection services associated with delinquent accounts.

5. Times for Rendering Services

Schedule is estimated and subject to change based on all parties completion of tasks and final adoption of fee.

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) Update	December 2026
Credit Policy Creation	December 2026
Ordinance Update	February 2027
QA/QC and Approval	March 2027
Testing and Outreach	April 2027
Live Billing	May 2027

6. Payments to Engineer

A. Owner shall pay Engineer for services rendered as follows:

<u>Category of Services</u>	<u>Compensation Method</u>	<u>Lump Sum, or Estimate of Compensation for Services</u>
ERU Update	Standard Hourly Rates	\$9,100
Credit Policy Creation	Standard Hourly Rates	\$4,700
Ordinance Update	Standard Hourly Rates	\$6,850
Utility Staff Support	Standard Hourly Rates	\$5,400
Public Outreach	Standard Hourly Rates	\$7,000
TOTAL =		\$33,050

B. The terms of payment are set forth in Section III and Exhibit A of the Agreement.

7. Consultants

None.

8. Other Modifications to Standard Terms and Conditions**9. Attachments****10. Documents Incorporated by Reference**

Ruekert & Mielke, Inc. / Columbus Utilities Master Agreement

TASK ORDER

Item #7.

TASK ORDER NO. 2026-03
Storm Water Utility Updates and Implementation
Between Columbus Utilities
and
Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.
Dated September 24, 2026

Terms and Conditions: Execution of this Task Order by Owner and Engineer shall make it subject to terms and conditions, (as modified above) set forth in the Master Engineering Agreement Amendment between Owner and Engineer, dated March 19, 2019, which are incorporated by this reference. Engineer is authorized to begin performance upon its receipt of a copy of this Task Order signed by Owner.

The Effective Date of this Task Order is September 24, 2026.

OWNER:

Columbus Utilities

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

ENGINEER:

Ruekert & Mielke, Inc.

Signature: Jason P. Lietha Digitally signed by Jason P. Lietha
Date: 2026.09.16 20:08:39 -05'00'

Name: Jason Lietha, P.E.

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Date: September 16, 2026

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE FOR TASK ORDER

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Name: Samantha Boman, P.E.

Title: Project Engineer

Address: 4630 S Biltmore Lane
Madison, WI 53718

Email: sboman@ruekert-mielke.com

Phone: 608-572-7972



Director's Report Outline

Randall Myrum – Director of Utilities & Public Works

Electric Department:

- New Construction
- Trouble Shooting

Water Department:

- System Sampling
- End of Year Maintenance

Sanitary Department:

- Plant Maintenance
- Collection System Maintenance

Dept. of Public Works

- Infrastructure Repairs
- Tree Removal

Project Updates:

- School Street Project

LIVELines

Volume 75, Issue 9 • September 2026

Debate over data centers continues to dominate headlines

Data centers are everywhere in the news right now, and for good reason. Many projects are planned or under construction across the country, including here in Wisconsin. The projects are backed by hundreds of billions of dollars in investment from the biggest tech companies in the world. The massive facilities are designed to power not just artificial intelligence (AI), but pretty much everything that happens online — from your streaming to your email and cloud storage. The debates happening in communities throughout Wisconsin are healthy and necessary, and it's important to stay on top of what the outcomes mean for locally-owned utilities.



This artist rendering shows the 700,000-square-foot data center facility currently under construction on 570 acres, visible from U.S. Highway 151, in Beaver Dam (from Meta news release)

Several questions that dominated the 2025 conversation in Wisconsin have since been answered, at least in part, and those answers came from regulators rather than lawmakers.

Some issues related to data centers have not moved at all, and one has become the most consequential constraint on any large-

load project in the state. The difficulty is not a shortage of information, it's keeping up with the latest decision.

The first question many utility operators would ask is, "Who pays for the new capacity?" Across four proceedings this spring and summer, the Public Service Commission (PSC) drew a line.

In April, the PSC approved Very Large Customer and Bespoke Resources tariffs for the state's largest investor-owned utility (IOU), Wisconsin Electric Power Company (which does business as We Energies), lowering the threshold from a proposed 500 megawatts (MW) to 100 MW and requiring those custom-

ers to carry 100 percent of their costs. The three-person Commission — all of whom were appointed by Democrat Gov. Tony Evers — said it needed to do everything within its jurisdiction "to make sure data center customers will pay their own way, fully and transparently, [so] other customers will be held harmless."

In May, the PSC approved an individual rate agreement between Wisconsin Power and Light Co. (part of Alliant Energy) and Meta — the major technology company that owns popular social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram, among others — which is constructing a roughly \$1 billion data center campus in Beaver Dam. The PSC's decision also directed the utility to take a different approach moving forward: Future customers at 100 MW or more get standard rates, not negotiated contracts. PSC Chair Summer Strand used the occasion to object to a "black-box approach that includes nondisclosure agreements [and] heavily redacted filings," and said the lack of transparency "is hurting not helping" the debate over data centers.

Meanwhile, Xcel Energy filed its own version in June at the same threshold. Another IOU, Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), followed in July, telling the PSC it expects loads of that size and that the moratoria enacted in its communities "offer MGE and the Commission a timely opportunity to establish electric rate structures before these loads materialize, rather than after costs or obligations have already been incurred."

Continued on page 2

— INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE —

George Morrissey is retiring from Cuba City this month

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Control of Wisconsin Legislature up for grabs this November

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Members' News

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MEUW News Monitor

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Wisconsin Utility News Digest

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Submit ideas for topics at 2027 Electric Operations Conference & Expo

Page 10

Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin's mission is to **strengthen and unify community-owned utilities**. Since 1928, MEUW has been the trade association for Wisconsin's 81 public power communities and is affiliated with the American Public Power Association (APPA) — www.publicpower.org

Continued from page 1

While each of those cases involved an IOU, none of those companies are responsible to write a community's zoning or its development agreement. But on the narrow question of who absorbs the cost of new capacity, the state regulatory body responsible has now answered (on the record) four times, and that record is available to any community having the conversation locally.

The water question has moved as well, though not in the direction most coverage suggests. The case against data centers on water rests largely on evaporative cooling, and the largest operators are leaving it behind. Microsoft says every facility it designed after August 2024 uses a closed loop, filled once and then recirculated, and Oracle published the same commitment in February of this year.

Two things keep those large tech companies' commitments from settling the matter. Closed-loop cooling trades water for electricity, putting the load back on the grid. And the industry has not yet converted its original systems. Most facilities still cool with water, the new designs arrive with new construction rather than retrofits, and a one-time fill at hyperscale volume is still worth sizing for.

What has not changed is the timeline, and that is where the real constraint sits. Connecting a hyperscale facility typically requires new high-voltage transmission and substations. The 2026 Global Data Center Outlook published by JLL, a leading firm focused on commercial real estate and investment management, puts the national average wait time at roughly four years. Where the grid is tight, the building goes up faster than the power can be secured to operate it.

Wisconsin now has a case that makes the point concrete. In August, the Commission voted unanimously to revoke the completeness determination it had issued in December 2025 for ATC's Ozaukee County project, the build-out of more than \$1.3 billion meant to serve the Oracle, OpenAI, and Vantage cam-

pus in Port Washington. The PSC's vote is not a denial. It closes the case and sends ATC back to file again from the beginning, just months before the company had planned to break ground on the new transmission lines.

Port Washington has had an organized fight over the campus there for a year, including a first-in-the-nation referendum in April (passed with roughly 66 percent support) that required voter approval for large tax incremental districts. Nevertheless, that's not what regulators acted on. Commission Chair Strand was careful to say the PSC "is not opposed or hostile to data centers, construction, generation, [or] transmission." Instead, she described an application revised so many times that staff could not evaluate it, calling it "a cautionary tale of when unrealistic and unreasonable speed-to-power expectations collide with a deliberative regulatory process."

Observers point to the Port Washington data center development as a wake-up call. Rob Crain, owner of Nasc Consulting, which advises Wisconsin communities on large-project readiness, said, "There is a loud, local fight in Port Washington, and the Commission did not rule on any of it. Those are two separate tracks, and that reality can be a surprise to those who aren't keeping an eye on the full range of issues."

The state legislature, meanwhile, did not fill the gap. Assembly Bill 840, which would have required closed-loop cooling and annual water-use reporting to the DNR, passed the Assembly in January and died with the session in March, without reaching the Senate floor. A proposed ban on local-government nondisclosure agreements died in committee. Despite all the headlines, lawmakers took no action on data centers in the most recent session. And now, the

airwaves are filled with ads attacking the gubernatorial candidate's stances on data centers. What happens next won't be cleared up until the new governor and legislature take office in January 2027.

The practical consequence is that there is no statewide framework, and there likely won't be one for a while. The rules a community operates under are the rules it writes for itself.

As regulators and lawmakers debate data centers, no statewide framework exists, and there likely won't be one for a while. The rules a community operates under are the rules it writes for itself.

That vacuum explains why a string of Wisconsin municipalities and counties have reached for the one tool fully within their control, enacting moratoriums.

Dane and Manitowoc Counties, along with a number of individual communities — including Wisconsin Rapids — are weighing options or have already hit pause on data center development — for now.

"A moratorium is almost never a community's goal," Crain said. "It is what a community reaches for when it has no framework, no process and no trusted way to talk to its residents. It is the blunt instrument elected officials reach for because the precise ones were never built."

With no statewide framework on the horizon, the useful preparation happens before a proposal arrives, not after.

"Almost none of the useful preparation is expensive," he said. "It is deciding what confidentiality terms you will accept, who makes up your advisory team, and what your officials will say when somebody asks at the grocery store. Those are decisions, not studies."

For MEUW member communities, the near-term work is narrower and mostly fact-based. Know the actual capacity of the system. Understand what expanding it would cost, and who would pay. Find out where the interconnection queue stands before somebody else describes it. None of that requires a proposal on the table, and it most certainly will be cheaper to have the information in hand before one arrives. ●

Cuba City's Morrissey reflects on career, upcoming retirement

Some people have a way of leaving a mark on everyone they meet. George Morrissey is one of those people. Later this month, he is retiring as Cuba City Light & Water's Director of Public Works (DPW). We recently sat down with him to chat about his career, community, and membership.

Q: You often greet people with "Aloha." What does that mean to you?

A: Aloha means hello, goodbye and love, but it's also a deeper cultural way of living in Hawaii, based on kindness, unity and respect. Hawaii is a place I love, and the Aloha spirit is something I believe in strongly. I've tried to infuse that spirit into my daily work and life.

Q: Tell us a little about your earlier years.

A: I was born into a large farming family in Shullsburg, where everyone was expected to work from dawn to dusk — and there was plenty of work to go around. Between the crops, cattle and rock quarry, time off was practically unheard of, and going to school was considered a luxury.

Farming is a 24/7/365 profession, and I decided I wanted something different out of life.

Q: How did you get started in the municipal utility industry?

A: In 1997, I was selected for a job as a Water Operator with the City of Shullsburg. While I was there, I earned my advanced water certification license on my own time and at my own expense.

I also went through the Electric Line Apprenticeship Program at Chippewa Valley Technical College and eventually became a Lead Lineman for Shullsburg Utilities.

Five years later, the DPW position in Cuba City opened up, and I was selected based on my practical experience — and possibly also because of my gift of gab!

Q: What made you realize you had made the right career choice?

A: As my wife, Tammy, and I grew our family, welcoming our daughters Grace in 2001 and Faith in 2002, it confirmed that I had made the right life and career choice.

Working for a municipal utility gave me the opportunity to be there for their games and events. It also gave me the chance to really focus on community — including the municipal utility community.

Q: Why do you believe involvement in

MEUW and WPPI Energy is so important?

A: I truly believe being an active member of MEUW and WPPI is an important part of building and supporting the municipal utility community. Dan Hornung, a wise utility commissioner from Manitowoc, once honored me by saying, "You bring something we need."

I really believe every member has something that the collective needs. I encourage all members — from utilities large and small — to get involved and bring your skills, energy, and voices to the table.

I did that myself by becoming involved with the Executive Committees of both MEUW and WPPI.

But participation can take many forms — attending meetings, networking, providing feedback, or simply taking part in the discussion.

Q: What advice would you give to other utility leaders and members?

A: The ability to sit back, observe, listen, and learn is key.

I've been lucky enough to find myself in places and working alongside people who are a lot smarter than me. You can call on them for help and opinions, and sometimes they'll call on you, too.

That's what makes a strong organization and a strong community — people sharing what they know and being willing to learn from one another.

Q: What are your plans once you are retired?

A: Stay tuned! I'm waiting for somebody to tell me. I hope to travel — we hope to have the ability to experience all seven continents and enjoy life. Both my daughters are at UW-Madison: Faith is in physical therapy school, and Grace is starting veterinary school. We'll see what happens next!

Q: Finally, one more note about your use of "Aloha" and "Mahalo." Why do you do that?

A: I say Aloha ("hello") and Mahalo — which means "thank you" or "gratitude" — because I genuinely mean them. But it also helps grab people's attention!

Sometimes, a simple greeting starts a conversation or even a relationship.

I encourage everyone to take the time to express themselves in their own way. Be genuine. Be memorable. Find your own Aloha! You need to leave your mark, whatever that may be. The biggest waste of talent is what we never hear or see — participate and show what you have to offer. Collectively, we are stronger and more well informed as one! ●



All are welcome for what promises to be an "Absolut-ly good time" celebrating George's retirement. Join the fun on **Saturday, Sept. 12**, from 1:00–5:00 p.m. at Hindu's Corner Bar in Cuba City. Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite Hawaiian attire to honor George's customary style choice.

Control of Wisconsin Legislature up for grabs this November



Labor Day is right around the corner, kids are getting back to school, and it's an even-numbered year in Wisconsin, so that means one thing — election

season is upon us! I realize it's probably felt like the last one never ended, but that's the reality of living in a politically-divided state. This was one of the craziest primaries, with a virtually uncontested Republican primary for governor leading to Rep. Tom Tiffany advancing to the November general election. Meanwhile, there was a wide range of competition among the Democrats — with political views ranging from far-left to moderate to establishment. Leading candidates abandoned their campaigns and the eventual winner, Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley dropped out, then got back in, and ultimately won by the narrowest of margins, thanks in large part to a late endorsement from two-term Gov. Tony Evers.

I will share more about the governor's race next month, including some insights about what both candidates are saying about energy and utility issues. This month, let's focus on the battle for control of the state

legislature. Republicans currently hold a 54-45 advantage in the Wisconsin State Assembly, and while there is a chance that Democrats could win enough races to take back the Assembly, their best path to winning a legislative majority comes in the State Senate, where Republicans currently hold a three-seat advantage (18-15). The ballot this fall has four seats that will determine who controls the upper chamber — three currently held by Republicans and one held by a Democrat —

and Republicans will need to win two of those races to come back with a one-vote margin. Let's take a look at the candidates in these hotly contested races that are getting a lot of attention.

WI-5 Senate District

Currently held by Sen. Rob Hutton (R-Brookfield), who is not seeking reelection, this now-open seat has Republican Mike Roberts, a healthcare professional and small-business owner, facing off against state Rep. Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa). This suburban Milwaukee district now includes Brookfield, Elm Grove, Pewaukee, and parts of Wauwatosa and West Allis. This area of the state that has been trending toward Democrats in recent elections and is a true 50/50 district.

WI-17 Senate District

Incumbent Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), who was first elected to the State Assembly in 2010 and has represented this district in the State Senate since 2015, is facing off against state Rep. Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon), who was elected to the State Assembly in 2023. The 17th is a primarily rural district in southwest Wisconsin that includes

Dodgeville, Platteville, Prairie du Chien, and a large number of public power communities, including Argyle, Belmont, Benton, Boscobel, Brodhead, Cuba City, Fennimore, Hazel Green, Mount Horeb, Muscoda, New Glarus, and Shullsburg. This is a district where the prior years' top of ticket numbers favor Democrats, but where Republicans have outperformed in state legislative races to win this seat.

WI-21 Senate District

Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) is not seeking reelection after this district in southeastern Wisconsin was significantly redrawn in 2024. The race has Republican Jim Croft, a businessman from Franklin, running against Democrat Trevor Jung, a former Racine City Councilman and the city's current transit director. The 21st includes part of the City of Racine, Caladonia, Franklin, Glendale, and Hales Corners, and is one where Republicans have had a slight advantage in recent years, but trends have been looking better for Democrat candidates, making this another truly 50/50 district.

WI-31 Senate District

Sen. Jeff Smith (D-Brunswick) served two terms in the State Assembly from 2006-2010 before being elected to the State Senate in 2018. As the incumbent, he's facing off against Republican Michele Magadan Skinner, an Eau Claire County Board Supervisor and former small business owner. The district, which includes Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Menomonie, and the public power community of Cadott, has been very "swingy" the past few election cycles, voting for President Obama in 2008 and 2012 before swinging to favor President Trump more recently. Sen. Smith won 50.4 percent of the vote in the 2022 race, and the 31st is viewed as a 50/50 district that's elected Republicans at the top of the ticket and Democrats down ballot.



Democrats would need to gain **five Assembly seats** but only **two Senate seats** to take control of one legislative chamber

Tyler Vorpapel is MEUW's Director of Legislative and Regulatory Relations. He can be reached at tvorpapel@meuw.org

Members' **NEWS**

The City of New Lisbon recently added to their team: **Cindy Suzda** has been hired as City Clerk/Treasurer, and **Dale Bowser** recently started as Journeyman Line Technician. Dale previously worked at Wisconsin Dells Water & Light Utility.

Send us your news! Tell MEUW about new hires, promotions, retirements, honors, and awards, so those tidbits can be shared in MEUW member communications. Simply send an email to news@meuw.org to share your news.

Upcoming Member Roundtable sessions great for networking

MEUW member utilities routinely report that one of the most valuable aspects of their membership is networking with other members. MEUW will host five informal Member Roundtable sessions around the state this fall to give local utility leaders a chance to connect and network on topics of interest to public power. Make plans for you and your Commissioners or Board Members to attend one of the half-day sessions planned and receive updates about association happenings and participate in roundtable discussions. Planned locations and dates are:

- Tuesday, Sept. 29: Bloomer
- Wednesday, Sept. 30: Juneau
- Thursday, Oct. 1: Hartford
- Thursday, Oct. 8: Clintonville
- Thursday, Oct. 15: Richland Center

All MEUW members are welcome, and there is no cost to attend. The sessions may be especially valuable for governing board members who don't often have a chance to connect with and hear about operations in other public power communities. While the Roundtables have been organized in locations that are central to MEUW's districts, members are invited to attend at the location and on the date that works best for them.

Lunch will be provided. Advance registration is required. Each session will begin at 9 a.m. and wrap up by 1 p.m. Registration is available [here](#). ●



Hands-on learning goes to new heights: Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) instructors and their 2nd year Electric Line Worker Apprenticeship class recently replaced an 80-foot light pole on the football field at Suring High School in Oconto County. The unique assignment was a great learning experience for the apprentices from 17 municipal utilities, who were among the 22 students assisting with the project.



Public Power Week is Oct. 4-10, 2026

Our industry celebrates Public Power Week the first full week of October every year to help customers and stakeholders understand how they can better engage with their community-owned utility and benefit from all it has to offer.

Resources are available online to help your utility take part in the annual celebration. New social media tools, promotional materials, and customizable assets will be available at publicpower.org. Call the MEUW Office at (608) 837-2263 with questions.



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MEUW NEWS Monitor

Affordability is focus of Sept. 15 Customers First Coalition forum

An annual forum bringing together policy-makers, energy leaders, and stakeholders is set for Tuesday, Sept. 15, in Madison. This year's Customers First Coalition "Power Breakfast" will focus on energy affordability, with a keynote presentation by Dr. Destenie Nock, an Associate Professor at Carnegie Mellon University and Founder and CEO of Peoples Energy Analytics. She is a leading voice in energy affordability, equity, and systems modeling. Her pioneering research provides critical frameworks for understanding energy burden beyond traditional metrics, and offers valuable insights for utility policy and regulatory design. Dr. Nock's presentation will be followed by an expert panel exploring practical solutions to maintain affordability while supporting reliability, economic growth, and long-term investment in the state's electric system. Registration is [here](#).

Brush up on the Basics of Electric Rate Setting

Support your utility's success by understanding the fundamentals of electric rate setting. This class is for anyone who wants to understand the different components and considerations involved in the process, and is especially helpful for those new to the utility industry. Utility commissioners and elected officials are welcome to attend. Taught by a seasoned instructor, this course will cover the cost-of-service process, rate design and principles, and special rate provisions. Whether you're a municipal utility employee or member of a governing body, don't miss this chance to ensure you know this important utility con-

cept. Join your peers for this class in Mauston on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Details and registration are located [here](#).

Register today for Accounting & Customer Service Seminar

This annual seminar draws municipal utility staff from across Wisconsin with a focus on accounting and customer service topics. Attendees receive updates on regulatory rules and legislation affecting their utilities and compare best practices to improve their operations. MEUW's Accounting and Customer Service Committee assists MEUW staff in putting together the day's program to address industry topics. This year's seminar is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 23, in Mauston. Additional information and registration details are available [here](#).

Utility Planning and Risk Management class set for Oct. 7

An upcoming session in MEUW's professional development programming — Fundamentals of Utility Management — will focus on utility planning and risk management. The one-day training is led by **Dave Krause**, an experienced engineer and regular presenter at MEUW events. He will explain the basics of strategic and operational planning, why planning matters, and how well-thought-out plans and careful assessments of risks can contribute to long-term success. The class will be held in Mauston on Wednesday, Oct. 7. Registration and details about the class and instructor can be found [here](#).



It's time for suppliers to renew their Associate Membership!

Having strong connections to vital supply lines is essential for municipal utility operations. MEUW Associate Members are suppliers and service providers who have paid membership dues in support of those connections. During the month of September, current members who renew their membership will also receive priority access to register for the 2027 Electric Operations Conference & Expo, giving them the best opportunity to select the table location of their choice (space permitting). Priority registration for 2025-26 Associate Members is open through Sept. 30. Registration for first-time and lapsed Associate Members will open Oct. 1. Full details about the benefits of Associate Membership renewal can be found [here](#). The Associate Member year runs from Oct. 1–Sept. 30 each year.

Plan ahead for December seminar on coaching others

Commit to your own leadership development by attending Leading Through Coaching, a one-day class that focuses on the importance of effective coaching as an essential leadership skill for utility leaders. Participants will take away practical ideas they can apply to set a good example, develop their employees and get the most from individuals and their teams. Part of MEUW's professional development programming, this class will be held in Mauston on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Details and registration are [here](#).



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Phil Stoegerer | Senior Account Manager for Wisconsin | (262) 308-2554 | phil@jjkane.com



MEUW Employee Spotlight: Mike Czuprynko marking 10 years

This article is part of a series of employee spotlights to help members learn more about the people of MEUW.

Mike Czuprynko, Director of Operations and Safety Services, is a familiar face to many of our members. His outgoing presence is hard to miss, whether he's interacting at a conference or coordinating a mutual aid response. He has been with MEUW for 10 years, first serving as Manager of Safety Services before becoming Director of Safety Services and Operations in May 2023.

Mike graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater with a bachelor's degree in occupational and environmental health and safety, and a minor in coaching. Prior to joining MEUW, he worked for Charter Manufacturing, which is headquartered just outside Milwaukee. He started at the company's cold-rolling steel facility, and later move to their auto division, where he managed safety and environmental programs globally, including locations in the United Kingdom and China. The position



Fun Facts about Mike:

I'd eat that ... "Chicago-style hot dogs, Italian beef, Maxwell Street Polish (sandwich)"

Best new thing ... "Internet in cars and trucks, because kids don't know how to just look out the windows!"

Bring back ... "Car keys that actually go into the ignition so you're not stuck when the fob fails or the battery dies, and then you have to get a new fob for \$350 even after you replaced the battery ... ask me how I know."

Favorite game ... "Golf, Battleship"

Motivated by ... "Helping people, whether it's a mutual aid event or outside of work."

required regular overseas travel. Seeking to stay closer to home, in 2014, he took a job in Portage with Encapsys, a business partner for Procter and Gamble that micro encapsulated scents and perfumes for laundry products.

He was hired by MEUW on Sept. 14, 2016, and today oversees the association's safety compliance program offered to municipalities as well as the on-the-job training program offered to utility line-workers. He represents MEUW members as part of the American Public Power Association (APPA) Mutual Aid Committee that coordinates national public power mutual aid efforts, including the most recent response to help Lakeland Electric recover from the devastation Hurricane Milton caused in Florida in October 2024. He also has responsibility for the general operations of the association, including maintaining the office facility, and managing equipment and technology needs.

Mike currently lives in Cato, and enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, and golfing with his sons Vince, 11, and Blake, 9. ●

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President declares National Emergency to secure U.S. bulk-power system

President Donald Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 14420 – Declaring a National Emergency to Secure the United States Bulk-Power System, which would limit the importation of foreign-produced bulk-power system electric equipment. The EO was signed on Aug. 26; the full text can be found [here](#), and a fact sheet from the White House is [here](#).

High-Level Summary

The EO finds that the use of foreign bulk-power system electric equipment constitutes an “unusual and extraordinary threat” to national security and bans its importation. The Secretary of Energy is directed to identify the specific equipment and manufacturers (“covered foreign entities”) that should be subject to the prohibition within 120 days. The secretary is authorized to make exceptions or impose conditions to the use or importation of equipment on a case-by-case basis. Before doing so, the secretary is directed to “consider the effects on reliability and safety, the availability of secure replacements, and the continuity of essential service, and may establish a phased compliance.”

The EO defines “bulk-power system” and “bulk-power system electric equipment” broadly. Notably, the EO specifies that, for the purposes of the order, the definition of bulk-power system includes “transmission lines rated at 69 kV or more, but does not include facilities used in the local distribution of electric energy.”

In determining whether equipment is within the scope of the EO, the Energy Secretary is authorized to consider “associated software and firmware, remote access capabilities, lifecycle maintenance and update mechanisms, and other supply chain dependencies.” It is also notable that the EO specifically states that “items not listed in the definition of bulk-power system electric equipment or that have broader application beyond the bulk-power system unrelated to the national security concerns identified in this order are outside the scope of this order.”

Actions in President Trump’s First Term

In his first term, President Trump issued a similar order. After the original EO was signed, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued a request for information (RFI) to “understand the energy industry’s current practices to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities in the supply chain for components of the bulk power system.” APPA responded, asking DOE to take a risk-based approach that was cost-conscious and had a national defense strategic focus. In December 2020, then-Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette issued an order prohibiting utilities that supply critical defense facilities from procuring specific electric equipment from China. Upon taking office, President Joe Biden suspended and then revoked the DOE order, and issued a separate RFI, which APPA also responded to, as part of what it characterized as a “larger and coordinated effort.” ●

Wisconsin UTILITY NEWS Digest

Application for ATC transmission project must start process over

The three-person Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) voted unanimously on Aug. 6 to revoke the “completeness determination” for a proposed transmission project to serve a data center campus being developed in Port Washington. The decision came after ATC submitted more than 500 amendments to its application for the roughly \$1 billion project that seeks to add and rebuild transmission lines and construct five new substations across five counties. Commissioners said the extensive revisions made the proposal a “moving target” and prevented them from adequately evaluating its economic, environmental, and public impacts. The decision does not mean the project has been rejected, and ATC has the option to submit a new application.

Oracle drops challenge to new safeguards for data centers

Without explanation, tech giant Oracle on Aug. 17 dropped its lawsuit challenging Wisconsin utility regulators’ new financial safeguards for large data centers. Earlier this year, the PSC ordered We Energies’ rate structure that would require developers with credit ratings below certain levels to provide cash or lines of credit, protecting customers if projects close before utility investments are recovered. Oracle is developing a \$15 billion AI campus in Port Washington with OpenAI and Vantage, and argued the rule could cost it \$100 million annually and discourage investment. The PSC, Clean Wisconsin and the Citizens Utility Board welcomed the dismissal, saying the safeguards appropriately shield ratepayers from financial risk.

Public asked to provide input about new transmission project

Developers of a \$1.2 billion transmission project being planned across southern Wisconsin have begun public meetings. The 190-mile, 765-kilovolt Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–Illinois/Wisconsin State Line Project, or BECI, would run from Crawford County through Walworth County to the state line. Midcontinent Grid Solutions, a joint venture of Transource Energy and BHE Transmission, is developing the project for completion by June 1, 2034. Its proposed “Guyed-Y” structures are designed to reduce right-of-way and environmental impacts. No final route has been chosen, and developers are gathering public input. Some landowners have raised concerns about effects on farms, property values, land use, and potential noise. ●

Collaboration = Energy savings and community impact

A recent project at Pine Haven Christian Communities demonstrates how collaboration among local utilities, Focus on Energy, contractors, and customers can translate energy-saving opportunities into meaningful community impact.

Pine Haven operates senior-living communities in Sheboygan County, including facilities served by Sheboygan Falls Utilities. Because lighting is critical to maintaining safe, comfortable, and welcoming spaces for residents and staff, and often operates for long hours, upgrading aging lighting offered a significant opportunity to reduce energy use.

“As a nonprofit with multiple campuses, [we are] always looking for innovative ways to manage operating costs more efficiently,” said Maintenance Manager Phillip Gabrielse. “Rising energy expenses made it clear that implementing modern efficiency upgrades would deliver meaningful financial benefits.”

Working in partnership with Sheboygan Falls Utilities and Focus on Energy, Pine Haven moved forward with a comprehensive lighting project. Werner Electric Supply served as the contractor, while Pine Haven worked closely with Focus on Energy Advisor Mark Garrigan, who provided technical guidance and helped the organization navigate available energy-saving opportunities and rebates.

Staff and residents have been pleased with the results, Gabrielse said. Common areas are brighter and more pleasant thanks to modern LED lighting that requires far less maintenance, while new occupancy and daylighting controls enable smarter energy use.

MEUW provides Focus on Energy the opportunity to regularly contribute content to LIVE LINES because of the organizations' shared support of municipal utilities.



Comprehensive Lighting Upgrade

Rather than simply replacing a handful of bulbs, Pine Haven upgraded lighting throughout its facilities using a combination of high-efficiency LED technology and controls. Improvements included:

- Replacing older fluorescent fixtures with complete LED fixtures.
- Replacing incandescent, CFL, and HID downlights with LED downlights.
- Replacing fluorescent lamps with tubular LED (TLED) lamps.
- Replacing exterior HID lamps with LED lamps.
- Installing daylighting controls that adjust lighting based on available natural light.
- Using occupancy sensors that reduce unnecessary lighting when spaces are unoccupied.

Together, these upgrades allow Pine Haven to use less electricity while maintaining the bright, comfortable environment that residents and staff rely on every day.

Nearly \$14,000 in Incentives

Focus on Energy provided Pine Haven with nearly \$14,000 in rebates to help offset the upfront cost of the improvements. Since completing the upgrades, Pine Haven has realized significant

energy cost savings, freeing up dollars that can instead support the organization's mission of serving its residents.

The project is expected to save nearly 110,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) in its first year alone. To put that into perspective, that's roughly equivalent to the electricity used by about 10 average U.S. homes for an entire year.

The long-term impact is even greater.

Over the expected life of the installed equipment, Pine Haven is projected to save approximately 1.7 million kWh of electricity, roughly equivalent to the electricity used by more than 150 average U.S. homes for a year.

Those reductions translate into lasting operational savings while also reducing demand on the local electric system.

And Pine Haven's energy-saving efforts aren't stopping with lighting.

“More projects, including heating and cooling upgrades, are planned at all three residential campuses,” Gabrielse said. “Pine Haven is excited to see how bright its energy-saving future will get.”

Pine Haven's success also highlights the value of connecting municipal utility customers with the resources available through Focus on Energy. Through Sheboygan Falls Utilities' partnership with the program, local customers can access financial incentives and technical expertise that help turn energy-saving opportunities into completed projects.

For Pine Haven, the benefits are clear: lower operating expenses, improved lighting for residents and staff, and significant energy savings that will continue for years to come. For municipal utilities, the project demonstrates how a conversation with a customer about aging equipment or rising energy costs can open the door to meaningful improvements with lasting benefits for both the customer and the community. ●

Submit ideas for topics and presenters at 2027 Electric Operations Conference & Expo

The annual gathering of municipal utility and electric cooperative employees from across Wisconsin is set for



Jan. 13–14, 2027, and event organizers are working to identify topics and presenters to make the event informative and worthwhile for all who attend. The focus of the 2027 event is resilience and reliability — hallmarks of energy service.

Utilities, suppliers, and consultants are invited to submit ideas they can present to conference attendees during a large-group general session (30 minutes or less). This is an opportunity to showcase a project or share important insights by presenting information about a compelling and relevant topic of interest to leaders in utility operations. The “Call for Presenters” form is available [here](#). The deadline to submit an idea is Friday, Sept. 11.

EOCE27 will take place at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The trade show is planned for Thursday, Jan. 14, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

LIVELines Classifieds

MEUW is pleased to promote job openings with its member utilities across Wisconsin. New positions are regularly added to our website — check them out [here](#) or use your smartphone to scan the QR code below. Here are some current opportunities available:

Kaukauna Utilities — [Electrical Engineer](#)

Rice Lake Utilities

[Electrical Lineworker](#)

[Wastewater/Water Operator](#)

Lake Mills Light & Water

[Street Maintenance Worker](#)

[Water Operator](#)

When your utility is hiring, be sure to email the job posting to office@meuw.org.



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