

City of Naperville

Public Utilities Advisory Board

2025 Annual Report

Submitted to:

The Honorable Mayor and Members of the Naperville City Council

Prepared by:

Public Utilities Advisory Board (PUAB)
City of Naperville, Illinois

Date: November 2025

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1. Mission Statement

The **Public Utilities Advisory Board (PUAB)** serves in an advisory capacity to the Naperville City Council on matters related to **rates, budgets, and capital improvements** for the City's **electric, water, and wastewater systems**.

In addition to providing guidance on policy and planning, the Board also:

- Reviews proposals for **facility expansion and system improvements**.
- Hears and addresses **customer complaints** regarding potential violations of the **right to privacy** related to utility operations.

Through these efforts, the PUAB supports transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the City's public utility services.

2. 2025 Accomplishments

Board Training and Development

- The Chair and members completed formal training conducted by City officials and the Legal Department on the **roles, procedures, and legal responsibilities** of the Board.
- Three new members have been appointed, expanding the Board from **five to seven members**. New members were introduced to existing members and briefed on ongoing projects and responsibilities.

Utility Operations Review

- Reviewed and discussed staff recommendations regarding **2025 service levels** and **capital projects**.
- Evaluated current operations in terms of **electric and water system reliability, availability, and affordability**.

IMEA (Illinois Municipal Electric Agency) Engagement

- Reviewed IMEA meeting minutes and received regular updates from City staff.
- Hosted a **presentation by IMEA staff**, followed by Board discussion and Q&A.

IMEA Contract Review

- Conducted regular and **two special meetings** to receive presentations from IMEA representatives, independent consultants, and the **NEST Task Force**, all regarding Naperville's energy supply contract with IMEA.
- After comprehensive review and discussion, the PUAB **voted 4–3 to approve** the new IMEA contract.

Ongoing Oversight

- Continued to receive updates and reports on Naperville's utility operations, including **performance metrics and IMEA-related developments**.

3. 2025 Challenges

- **Transparency:** Strengthen communication with the public and City Council by presenting clear, factual updates from PUAB meetings.
- **Collaboration:** Enhance coordination with utility directors through research-based recommendations and active dialogue.
- **Expertise Recognition:** Reinforce PUAB's role as a **technical advisory body** and subject-matter expert to the City Council.

- **Agenda Development:** Encourage collaboration with utility directors to include **member-suggested topics** in upcoming meeting agendas.
 - **Meeting Frequency:** Maintain a consistent meeting schedule—**at least every other month**—as outlined in the Naperville Boards and Commissions Guide.
 - **Environmental Balance:** Weigh environmental impacts alongside **city needs and resident costs** when formulating recommendations.
 - **Student Engagement:** Increase interaction with **student representatives** to foster meaningful civic learning experiences.
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4. 2026 Work Plan

Contract and Utility Oversight

- Continue reviewing the IMEA contract and support its implementation to maximize benefits for **residents, businesses, and the City**.
- Maintain regular oversight of Naperville’s utility operations, ensuring reliability, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness.

Reporting and Communication

- Provide **technical reviews and advisory reports** to the Mayor, City Council, and the public.
- Strengthening PUAB’s communication efforts to promote transparency and community understanding of utility issues.

Board and Student Development

- Play a more active role in developing **PUAB meeting agendas**.
 - Create a **Welcome Packet for Board Members** to outline responsibilities, processes, and key reference materials.
 - Develop a **Student Representative Welcome Packet** to enhance their experience and understanding of **civic engagement and city operations**.
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Conclusion

The **Public Utilities Advisory Board** remains committed to supporting the City of Naperville by providing informed, transparent, and responsible guidance on the City’s public utility systems. Through continued collaboration with City leadership, staff, and the community, the PUAB aims to ensure that Naperville’s utilities remain reliable, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of residents and businesses alike.

PUAB Board Member	Signature
Michelle A Ackmann	
Abbas I Bhikhapurawala	
Philip A Schrieber	
Louis M Halkias	
Jim Fillar	
Roger Blomquist	
Rupa Natarajan	
PUAB Staff	
Brian Groth	
Darrell Blenniss	