

Water & Sewer Commission Meeting

September 29, 2025

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Monday September 29, 2025, at the City Hall, 23688 Adams Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Randy “Fritz” Conrad. In attendance Craig Konter, Richard Warner, Tom Jensen, Jason Ekern, Mayor Tom Kloss, Joe Galewski, City Attorney Rick Schaumberg, and Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch.

Proof of Giving Public Notice: Yes

Approval of Agenda: Motioned by Jason Ekern and Seconded by Craig Konter. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Approval of Minutes –August 25, 2025: Motion by Craig Konter to approve the minutes from the August 25th, 2025, meeting as presented. Second by Jason Ekern. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

- A. Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering:** Davy Engineering supplied an updated floodplain map; they are meeting with the DNR to go over map. Will need to update some of the building in the floodplain area.
- B. Water Pipe Survey:** Still working on survey, 177 surveys left from the public.
- C. Ferric Tank and Shed:** Installation almost complete just waiting for eye wash station and shower to be installed by Larson plumbing. DNR to do inspection once everything is complete.
- D. Influent Pump:** Minnesota Pumps ordered parts and should be delivered this week.
- E. Well Pump Inspection/Repairs:** Almost complete, there was an issue with a one way valve, Joe got it fixed without having to replace valve.
- F. Water & Sewer Truck:** Joe received bids for cost of new truck for the city. Discussed different options to help save money with cost of truck such as taking lift gate from old city truck and putting it on the new truck. Joe is still waiting on more bids.
- G. Weekday Schedule:** Joe discussed how he reached out to other municipalities about pay rates for water sewer employees during on-call time for weekdays. Water and Sewer commission will reach out to LEP committee to get recommendations on overtime and pay for weekdays.
- H. 23235 Birch St. Water Bill:** Municipal Well & Pump will pay the water bill by giving the city a credit on the bill we will be receiving from Municipal Well & Pump for the work they did with the pump.
- I. Audit Report Update:** Audit is complete. Mayor Tom Kloss went over the report from Auditors.

New Business:

- A. **Whitehall Road:** Opened the floor to Dennis Suchla who discussed his issue with the pipe that had a leak under Whitehall road. Dennis dug up his front yard looking for the leak before discovering it was on the other side of the road. Dennis requested compensation for the cost of digging up his yard and replacing pipes in his basement. Committee asked him to get a total of all bills for the cost and bring back to next meeting. Whitehall road paving to be done this week. Joe discussed how the water pipes in the ground are transite pipes. Joe provided a report from Davy Engineering on different grant programs to help with cost of replacing pipes.

Superintendents Report:

- A. **Disconnect Update:** Joe Hung 55 disconnect notices.
- B. **Flushing Hydrants:** Joe will be flushing hydrants during the month of October.
- C. **Plant checks:** Joe discussed how Eric Theisen will be assisting on weekends to do water/sewer plant checks.
- D. **City Truck Tires:** Joe will be putting new tires on the city truck before winter.

Commissioner Report: Randy "Fritz" Conrad will keep checking in at City Hall and going over the Agenda for Water & Sewer meeting.

Items for Next Agenda

- A. Whitehall Road
- B. Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering/Ferric Tank/Shed
- C. Status update on Water Pipe Survey
- D. Disconnect Update
- E. Influent Pump
- F. Well Pump Inspection and Repairs
- G. Water and Sewer Truck
- H. Weekday Schedule
- I. Increasing Water & Sewer Rates
- J. Walnut Street Hydrant
- K. G.B.T Pump
- L. Slaby Septic Service Bill
- M. Summer Discount Rates
- N. Sprinkler Systems
- O. Well 2 Furnace

Future Date for the next Meeting

October 27, 2025 @ 6:15pm

Closed Session: Motioned by Richard Warner to go into closed session, seconded by Jason Ekern. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-5 Nays-0, Motioned carried.

Motioned by Jason Ekern to return into open session, seconded by Tom Jensen. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Motioned by Jason Ekern to approve the treatment for high ammonia levels at the School District of Independence, seconded by Tom Jensen. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motioned Carried.

Motioned by Richard Warner to allow the City Clerk to cut a check to the School District of Independence for overpayment in the amount of \$31,663.33 with possibility of the amount differing from past credits, seconded by Craig Konter. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motioned Carried.

Adjournment at 8:37PM

Abby Bautch, Deputy City Clerk