Water & Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2026

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Monday, September 28, 2026, at City Hall, 23688 Adams Street. Chair Randy "Fritz" Conrad called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Present were Craig Konter, Richard Warner, Jason Ekern, Water Superintendent Joe Galewski and Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch. Also in attendance was Tammy Roberts, Todd Wagner, Paul Wagner, and Robin Woychik. Missing was Tom Jensen.

Proof of Giving Public Notice: Public notice was properly posted.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Jason Ekern, seconded by Richard Warner, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2026: Motion by Craig Konter, seconded by Jason Ekern, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Comments: Commissioner Jason Ekern reported on his meeting with Caselle regarding a potential new platform for water and sewer utility billing. The item will be brought back to the Commission next month when additional information is available.

Old Business:

A. **Water Shutoff Meters for Apartments:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reported concerns regarding access to water meters at rental and apartment properties. He asked the landlords present—Todd Wagner, Paul Wagner, and Robin Woychik—to either provide the City with a key for meter access or consider purchasing remote shutoff meters, estimated at $460 each, that could be operated using an iPad. Todd Wagner requested that the City contact him if a tenant failed to pay a utility bill and stated that he would provide access for a water shutoff. Robin Woychik noted that her rental properties are enrolled in automatic payment and stated that she would provide access if a shutoff became necessary. The landlords present agreed to cooperate with the City in providing meter access as needed.

Motion by Jason Ekern to move to New Business A:35884 Osseo Road Water & Sewer utility Bill, Seconded by Craig Konter. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

New Business:

A. **35884 Osseo Road Water & Sewer Utility Bill:** Property owner Tammy Roberts addressed the Commission regarding the utility bill for 35884 Osseo Road. Roberts

stated that she filled a 10,000-gallon pool after contacting milk haulers and the fire department, as directed by the City; neither was able to provide water. She asked why sewer charges applied when the pool water did not enter the sewer system. The Commission calculated the sewer charge attributable to filling the pool at $195.90. Motion by Richard Warner, seconded by Craig Konter, to reduce the sewer portion of the utility bill by $195.90. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Roberts also asked whether a similar sewer adjustment could be available for filling the pool next summer if she notified the City in advance. The Commission will discuss a possible ordinance regarding pool filing at its next meeting.

Old Business:

B. **Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reviewed an email from Dan Cooke and Tim Stockman of Davy Engineering. FEMA/GALT will proceed with formal issuance of the map and notify the City when the revision is issued. The DNR received a request for a wetland identification review at the WWTP site but could not guarantee completion before the end of the current growing season. If the review is not completed by year-end, the revisions will need to be re-done again next year.

C. **Water Pipe Survey:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reported there is no new update.

D. **Sludge Transfer Pump:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski presented a quote from Core & Main in the amount of $5,581.27 for a new sludge transfer pump. Galewski reported that WRWA had loaned the City a similar pump, which performed as needed and could also be used for other tasks. Motion by Craig Konter, seconded by Jason Ekern, to purchase the new sludge transfer pump from Core & Main at the quoted price of $5,581.27. Roll-call vote: Ayes—4; Nays—0. Motion carried.

New Business:

B. **WisDOT Work on Hwy 121 Between Independence and Whitehall:** Commissioner Jason Ekern and Water Superintendent Joe Galewski updated the Commission on planned work along Highway 121 between Independence and Whitehall. No start date has been established. They noted that the road project would provide an opportunity to complete any necessary water or sewer pipe work while the roadway is excavated.

C. **WWTP Generator:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reported that the existing generator is unable to power the entire wastewater treatment plant during an outage or

emergency. He advised that the generator will eventually need to be replaced with a unit capable of operating the entire facility.

Superintendents Report:

A. **Disconnect Update:** No update was provided at this time.
B. **Leak in Sludge Tank Pipe:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reported leaks in the 4-inch scum pipe leading to the sludge tank and the 10-inch pipe serving both systems. The total quoted cost to repair both pipes was $17,900, consisting of $3,900 for the 4-inch scum pipe and $14,000 for the 10-inch pipe. Galewski recommended completing both repairs at the same time while the tank is empty. Motion by Richard Warner, seconded by Craig Konter, to authorize payment of $17,900 for the repairs, plus the costs associated with pumping out the tank and hauling the sludge. Roll-call vote: Ayes—4; Nays—0. Motion carried.

Commissioner Report: None

Items for Next Agenda

A. Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering
B. Status update on Water Pipe Survey
C. Disconnect Update
D. WWTP Generator
E. Water Shutoff Meters for Apartments
F. Casselle Billing Platform
G. Ordinance for Filling Pools

Future Date for the next Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Abby Bautch, Deputy City Clerk