

Water & Sewer Commission Meeting

October 27, 2025

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Monday October 27, 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 Tom Jensen. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Approval of Minutes –September 29, 2025: Motion by Tom Jensen to approve the minutes from the September 29th, 2025, meeting as presented. Second by Craig Konter. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

- A. **Whitehall Road:** Opened the floor to Dennis Suchla who provided a total for the bills he received when he dug up his yard and replaced water pipes trying to find the leak that was discovered to be on other side of the road. Total Dennis is requesting from the City for reimbursement is \$2277.42. Commission will move into closed session to deliberate.

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

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

Motioned by Tom Jensen and second by Richard Warner to approve the offer to Dennis Suchla for the amount \$650 as the settlement from the claim filed. If offer is accepted Dennis must sign a release form from the City which will be drawn up by Attorney Rick Schaumberg. Roll Call Vote- Ayes-5 Nays-0. Motioned Carried.

Dennis initially denied offer but came back later during the meeting to accept the offer and will be picking up the check and signing release form on November 5th, 2025.

- B. **Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering:** Joe had no new updates.
- C. **Water Pipe Survey:** Joe got an update from DNR, there are still 177 surveys left to send by December 31st, 2025.
- D. **Ferric Tank and Shed:** Installation is complete, Joe sent an email with pictures notifying DNR and the Engineers of the completion. DNR will come look at it in person the next time they are in the area and engineers looked over the pictures and said it is good to go.

- E. **Influent Pump:** Pump is fixed and will be delivered by Minnesota Pumps.
- F. **Well Pump Inspection/Repairs:** All complete.
- G. **Water & Sewer Truck:** Joe talked to Jordan from Universal Truck about options of putting a crane on the bed of the truck. Monroe truck hasn't gotten any new quotes back to Joe yet. Joe also talked to Osseo Chevrolet to see if they had any options, the truck they have wouldn't be able to hold a crane on the bed of the truck. Commission would like to know what funds are available in the account to decide if they should have Joe keep looking into getting a new truck.
- H. **Weekday Schedule:** Waiting for LEP Committee to discuss before the first of the new year, once they have decided then it will be brought back to Water and Sewer commissions.

New Business:

- A. **Water & Sewer Rates:** Waiting on budget to be completed to then discuss possibility of changing rates for water and Sewer.
- B. **Walnut Street Hydrant:** Joe updated the commission on how the hydrant on Walnut street located by Ted Kabus workshop and across from Western Tech is broken. Joe's plan is to take the hydrant out completely because there is another hydrant close in location, so the broken hydrant doesn't need to be replaced.
- C. **G.B.T Pump:** Joe discussed how the pump to thicken the waste locked up, he tried to change the fluids and gear box but still isn't working. Joe reach out to Energenecs for the cost to replace pump, which they quoted at \$22,402.44. Joe ordered the new pump.
- D. **Slaby Septic Service Bill:** Joe went over the bill from Slaby Septic for hauling sludge. Slaby Septic brought 2 trucks that could haul 55 hundred gallons a load each. The total they hauled out was 144000 gallons to Waldera's. The bill total was \$7200.00.
- E. **Summer Discount Rates:** Joe and Abby discussed how during the summer months everyone in town gets a summer discount rate on their water and Sewer Utility bills for the sewer usage. During the summer months some homes are watering gardens and filling pools, the water being used for said things are not going down into the sewer, so the city gave a break on sewer usage, but not everyone one in town needs the sewer usage discount. Motion by Craig Konter to suspend the summer discount rate and second by Jason Ekern. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.
- F. **Sprinkler Systems:** Joe went over how some buildings have sprinkler systems and wanted to know whose responsibilities it is to make sure they are maintained. Commissioner Randy "Fritz" Conrad let Joe know it is the Fire Chief and Fire Inspectors responsibility to take care of the sprinkler systems.
- G. **Well 2 Furnace:** Joe updated the commission on the furnaces in the well house. There are two furnaces located in the well house that were put in in 2015, and both weren't working so one furnace got repaired with parts from another furnace, but the second furnace will either need to also be repaired or replaced. Joe got quotes from a couple places; Schaffner Plumbing & heating and Samson Plumbing, Schaffner quoted \$3495 to repair or \$3700 for a new unit and Samson quoted \$4565. Fritz brought up the option of radiant heat instead of forced air. Commission asked Joe to get more bids for the radiant heat option and bring them to the next meeting in November.

Superintendents Report:

- A. Disconnect Update:** Joe Hung 70 disconnect notices.
- B. 6th Street:** Joe discussed the leak on 6th street by the trailer park; they had to dig up part of the road to replace a broken saddle and plastic pipeline that leads to the shutoff, they also replaced the shutoff bib. Eric put in a new curb and once curb is set will be painted. Eric will also be reaching out to the Trempealeau County Highway Department to have them pave the road that was dug up.

Commissioner Report: Nothing to report

Items for Next Agenda

- A.** Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering
- B.** Status update on Water Pipe Survey
- C.** Influent Pump
- D.** Disconnect Update
- E.** Water and Sewer Truck
- F.** Weekday Schedule
- G.** Water & Sewer Rates
- H.** G.B.T Pump
- I.** Well 2 Furnace
- J.** Water & Sewer Accounts
- K.** Deputy Clerk Pay
- L.** Plant Checks Week/Weekend
- M.** 35541 5th Street Water/Sewer Utility Bill
- N.** 36355 Rosewood Court Water/Sewer Utility Bill
- O.** Water & Sewer Payment to City

Future Date for the next Meeting

November 24, 2025 @ 6:15pm

Closed Session: Motioned by Craig Konter to go into closed session, seconded by Richard Warner. 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.

Adjournment at 8:03PM

Abby Bautch, Deputy City Clerk