MINUTES

WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE
AMUNDSON COMMUNITY CENTER
200 SPRING ST., CAMBRIDGE, WI 53523
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026, 6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** President Hollenbeck called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

   Members Present – President Hollenbeck, Mat Hughson, Trustee Sands, and Steve Struss

   Members Absent (excused) – Matt Dozois

   Others –Utility Superintendent Blake Darnell, and Village Utility Clerk/Deputy Clerk Josie Stine

2. **PROOF OF POSTING:** Confirmed - Upper and Lower levels of the Amundson Center, Cambridge Post Office, Badger Bank, Bank First, and the Village website.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

   - **Leigh Price (404 Lawn):** Raised concerns regarding unusually high water and sewer bills, specifically exceeding $204 in August 2026 despite minimal usage and being away for two weeks. Technicians (Blake and Lee) inspected the meter, toilet, and spigot, finding no leaks. Price submitted an Excel spreadsheet covering December 2024 through September 2026 to request a bill or sewer charge adjustment.

   a. *Conclusion:* Item was not on the agenda for formal action; it will be added to the next meeting agenda for review without requiring Price's physical attendance.

   - **Julie Ryerson (302 Dowe Street, Apt 4):** Expressed concern that her single-person bill (usage ~1,000–2,000 gallons) is comparable to a family of four despite strict conservation practices.

   b. *Conclusion:* Address noted for future agenda review; potential meter calibration check to be evaluated.

-Motion made by President Hollenbeck to move item 8a up in the interest of the guest speakers. Motion seconded by Trustee Sands.

NEW BUSINESS -ACTION REQUIRED:

8a-Discussion and possible action on sewer lining (guest from Sewer Ninja's)

- **Problem Areas & Inflow/Infiltration (I&I):** Bad segments identified on South Street, the alley between East Madison and Pinecrest, and Highway 18 (approx. 10-inch line, mostly PVC with clay sections). Root intrusions and joint separations have caused backups. Following a ~4-inch storm on September 19–20, 2026, treatment plant flow surged to 336,000 (elevated I&I).
- **Proposal & Technology:** Proposed CIPP (Cured-In-Place Pipe) lining using Blue Light technology (Lake Mills Hammerhead) across ~2,700–3,000 feet (pared down from 8,000 ft) of 8-inch lines, along with robotic cutter lateral reinstatements. A full program cost is estimated at $531,000.
- **Funding & Pilot Approval:** Immediate available funds are estimated at ~$45,000, with potential additional funds from the COWC true-up estimated at over $100,000 (total COWC/COLWC balance around $800,000 under review).

- **Board Action:** Motion made by Struss and seconded by Hughson. (Roll call: Struss—Yes, Hollenbeck—Yes, Hughson—Yes, Sands—Yes) to proceed with the "Option B, Phase One pilot" (focused on one sewer main, possibly East Madison) within budget constraints. Motion passed

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Hollenbeck to approve the minutes from September 15, 2026. Second by Sands. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Motion made by Struss to approve the bills totaling $118,155.21 (without EU). Motion seconded by Trustee Sands. Bills were approved via roll call. Discussion regarding moving the MSA line item to “Outside Services-Engineering” as opposed to “Outside Services-Auditor”. Ongoing payments to the Department of Administration for the Well 3 project (~$40,000–$50,000 annually) continue for approximately 28 more years.

6. REPORTS

-UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- **Hydrant Flushing & Compliance Sampling:** Flushing completed on ~35 dead-end hydrants (Spring Street near the school noted as difficult due to loop acting like a dead end). Quarterly water samples, including ammonia, VOCs, PFOS, and inorganics, completed.
- **Staff Certifications:** Brock passed groundwater and distribution tests (Certified Water Operator); Cody passed sanitary sewer collections test.
- **System Leaks & Valve Failures:**
  - A major main break caused daily pumping to exceed 300,000 gallons (normal is 90,000–160,000 gallons), nearly draining the tower.
  - Leaks identified on Lagoon Drive and Highway 18.
  - Four valves failed due to severe corrosion of top stainless-steel bolts (predominantly north of Main Street up to Lagoon, suspected acidic soil). Capital Underground completed repairs with coated replacement valves and asphalt patching.
  - Routine valve exercising completed on ~425 valves (~25 remain on Main Street).
- **Well 3 Pump House Roof:** Repairs underway following a fallen tree; interior heater vent repaired in-house ($80), exterior shingles in stock, awaiting a $40 trim piece.
- **Valve & Pump Repairs:** Air relief valve replaced at Kenseth lift station (sourcing a 2-inch stainless ball valve). A cracked air relief valve stem at the main lift station was replaced.
- **Main Lift Station Alarm:** Routine maintenance was performed by Sabol. Days later, an overrun/motor overheating alarm triggered. Sabol reinspected and cleared the pump (no mechanical defects found; billed $1,700–$1,900 for the second call). Potential causes: PLC malfunction, sensor issues, or debris.
- **Annual Maintenance:** Four lift station pumps require external crane-assisted annual maintenance (~$3,200).
- **Equipment & Infiltration Improvements:** Current 38-year-old sewer jetter needs replacement ($50,000–$70,000 municipal cost under capital improvement) to bring jetting in-house. A phased replacement plan is needed for 100+ non-gasketed storm lids currently on sanitary sewer manholes ($250–$350 per lid) to curb I&I in low-lying areas.
- **Bulk Water Station:** Delivery tentatively set for October 29, 2026; goal to be operational before freezing. Telemetry and electrical quote from Van Ert ($23,000) exceeded the $12,000 allowance by $11,000. Q3 bulk water revenue was $23,667.56 (YTD exceeding $25,000), which may fund the difference. Protective bollards, software hosting (~$1,000/year), and potential security camera planned.

-COWC REPORT

- Engineer Greg Dressler (Town & Country) presenting at the October 21, 2026 COWC meeting on the completed rate study, 5-year CIP, and 3-year true-up.

-UTILITY CLERK REPORT

- PSC advised a rate case is required to implement a $40 final read fee (deferred to the next water rate study). Exploring a 7-day move-out notice policy.
- Bulk water revenue for 3rd quarter was $23,667.56.
- Tax roll notices were sent out (89 sent for a total of $77,180.11)
- Cross Connection letters were sent out by Hydrocorp. People have been calling asking and stopping in asking about them. They have been assured the letters are not a scam and to respond by calling and setting up the appointment. Committee asked that a Facebook and/or Website notice is put out.

BUDGET REPORT

- Nothing notable.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ACTION REQUIRED

- **7a. Discussion and possible action on 622 Drumlin Trail sewer refund/credit:**

-Darren Schaumann (622 Drumlin Trail) requested a sewer credit for lawn establishment watering during August 2026.

Conclusion: Motion made by Struss to approve a credit to Darren Schaumann for a total of $79.65 towards his August sewer bill. Motion seconded by Trustee Sands. Roll call vote-motion passes.

8. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REQUIRED –

8b-Discussion and possible action on draft Water/Sewer/Stormwater 2027 budget

- 2027 **Budget Priorities:**

- Water tower: Defer cosmetic cleaning and allocate funds into a long-term exterior painting capital reserve ($200,000–$300,000 estimated future cost).
- Stormwater/Streets: Replacement brooms/brushes for street sweeper (~$2,400); ditch/retention pond brush maintenance; repairs needed for West Madison culvert and damaged catch basins.
- Water/Sewer Facility: Add line items for annual generator load testing/inspections ($1,500–$1,600 each), large meter testing, distribution maintenance, and staff training (~$3,000). Inspect iron filter and softeners, and evaluate Well 2 rehabilitation needs.
- For the year 2027, travel expenses for delivering water samples need to be coded under “Water Samples” and not “Vehicle/Fuel Expenses”.

9. QUESTIONS, STAFF REFERRALS, AND FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

-Future agenda item-404 Lawn Street sewer credit (50%)

-Final budget for Water/Sewer/Stormwater 2027

10. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Struss and seconded by Sands. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:11p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Josie Stine/Utility, Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were approved by the Water & Sewer Committee on November 17, 2026.