

In Attendance:

Mayor Steve Bierce, Alderman Jerry Wamser, Michael Kreiter

Absent:

David Swan

Also In Attendance

Director of Public Works M. Wagner, Chief Engineer-Utilities R. Wirtz, Utility Manager J. Mueller, Administrative Assistant H. Jacobs

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bierce called the Public Works Committee meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. and called to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment - Please limit your comments to two minutes. If further time for discussion is needed, please contact your District Alderperson prior to the meeting.

None

3. Discussion and Action Regarding the Minutes

3.1 Discussion and possible action to adopt August 7, 2025, meeting minutes.

**Motion was made and seconded (J.Wamser, M.Kreiter) to approve the August 7, 2025 meeting minutes.** Motion passed unanimously.

4. Storm Water Management Division

4.1 Discussion and possible action regarding the 2026 Storm Water Utility Budget.

Ms. Wagner presented the 2026 Storm Water Utility Budget. She noted that at the time of preparation not all wage categories were complete, but she wanted to highlight the major changes, primarily in project expenditures.

Ms. Wagner explained that most of the 2026 projects are road projects with storm water components. She detailed the key projects:

1. Lexington/Takoma project: This involves a large drainage channel along the roadway, requiring replacement of large culverts and downstream stabilization of a drainage swale experiencing severe erosion near sewer and water infrastructure.

2. Glenwood Lane in Springdale Estates: This repaving project will address drainage issues in an older section of the subdivision where inlets are spaced too far apart and the road is very flat, causing roadway deterioration.
3. Valley Brook Subdivision ditch: A \$750,000 project along Redford Boulevard to clean out obstructions that are contributing to back-ups in the subdivision during smaller storm events.
4. Greenhill/Yench Road: Another road project with storm water components.
5. Additional design costs for future phases of road projects.

Mayor Bierce inquired about the current storm water fund balance. Ms. Wagner explained they had not yet received that information due to transitioning to a new budget program but would have it for the upcoming meeting. She noted there was \$3 million worth of projects beyond current revenue but could not yet determine if borrowing would be needed.

Mayor Bierce also asked about interdepartmental fees, which Ms. Wagner clarified that they were not yet fully allocated in the budget.

Mr. Kreiter asked about \$700 expenditure for Fox View Court in the 2024 activity. Ms. Wagner explained it was for project closeout and retainer payment.

Alderman Wamser commented that the storm sewer rebuild behind Kathryn Court performed perfectly during the recent storm. Mr. Wirtz confirmed there were no complaints from the neighborhood despite receiving 8 inches of rain. He noted the pond was overflowing into the spillway and storm sewer along Springdale Road, but the system handled it well. He plans to inspect the area this fall.

## 5. Water and Sewer Division

### 5.1 Discussion and possible action regarding the draft 2026 Water Utility Budget.

Ms. Mueller explained that both Water and Sewer Utility budgets appeared "wonky" due to the 2024 conversion to a new chart of accounts system required by the Public Service Commission (PSC). Red accounts in the document were old accounts that need to be phased out after one more budget year.

Ms. Mueller anticipates additional revenue for 2026 from approximately 40 new homes and several apartment buildings coming online, including five buildings for Ridgeview Parkway and completion of the Parkway Ridge buildings. She noted she had been conservative in revenue projections.

Ms. Mueller highlighted the water connection fees for new construction and explained the differences in how residential equivalents are calculated for apartment buildings versus single-family homes. Mayor Bierce questioned whether apartments should be charged differently than single-family homes if the population density is similar. Ms. Mueller explained that connection fees use a residential equivalent formula that assigns apartment units a smaller value than single-family homes.

Ms. Mueller also noted that the budget includes projected wages, though not officially adopted. She explained that the PSC's new chart of accounts has redundant wage categories that are challenging for their small staff of six people. Five of the six staff members now hold DNR certifications, which require ongoing continuing education. In addition, recent software updates will require administrative staff to attend training. This has increased the budget line substantially for continuing education and membership.

The budget also reflects higher chemical costs, electrical costs, and increased prices for transmission and distribution parts. Additionally, the utility is planning a billing software upgrade to a cloud-based system, which comes with higher costs but is expected to improve integration with other city systems.

Mr. Kreiter inquired about the legal fees outlined. Ms. Mueller explained that these cover legal guidance related to outcomes of the water supply service area study.

## 5.2 Discussion and possible action regarding the Draft Sewer Utility 2026 Budget.

Ms. Mueller explained that similar account changes affected the Sewer Utility budget. Revenue projections are based on the same assumptions as the Water Utility. She noted that Interceptor Capacity Assessments (ICA) revenues vary by area, with some increasing (such as the area around Pewaukee golf course) and others decreasing as developments fill up. QuadGraphics recently connected to the sanitary sewer and is expected to generate approximately \$180,000 in revenue.

Treatment plant costs for the Brookfield Treatment Plant are expected to decrease slightly after an anomaly in the previous year with unexpected projects. Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District (LPSD) has notified the city of an anticipated 9% rate increase, while a 3% increase was budgeted for Waukesha charges. Ms. Mueller mentioned they are working with Ehlers to conduct a rate study.

Collection system costs reflect repairs being made in conjunction with road projects. The budget also includes software updates and increased continuing education costs for sewer certifications.

## 5.3 Discussion and possible action regarding the Draft 2026 Water and Sewer Capital Budget

Ms. Mueller presented the Water Utility capital budget, explaining it contains baseline figures for continuing with groundwater projects, including radium and PFAS treatment, as the water facility plan direction is not yet finalized.

Key projects include:

- Drilling a deep well at the Still River facility.
- The Bluemound Road water connection between Busse Road and Foster Court will require a bridge and water main.

- The Sherwood Forest sewer project.

Ms. Wagner added that the Village of Pewaukee is replacing their Kopmeier lift station, pending railroad permission. The city's budget includes \$1 million for its share (approximately 90% of the flow). She explained that while the original agreement states the northwest corner would connect through their Kopmeier lift station, topographically that doesn't make sense, so they are working with the village to move the connection point.

Ms. Mueller also highlighted a \$1.75 million project to replace a section of sanitary sewer along Kopmeier that crosses the lake, which has been a long-standing concern.

## 6. Engineering Division

### 6.1 Discussion and possible action regarding the draft 2026 Engineering Budget.

Ms. Wagner presented the Engineering budget, noting few changes from the previous year. She highlighted wage adjustments pending council approval and a 4% increase in garbage collection costs per contract, with additional increases anticipated as more homes are serviced. These increases will be offset by revenue in a different category.

The Forestry budget decreased from \$175,000 to \$50,000 for removals, as major projects will be completed this year. Ms. Wagner explained that they will begin focusing on a replanting plan guided by recommendations from Wachtel. They plan to decide whether to prioritize replanting within the right-of-way or concentrate more on parks or other city-owned lands, as indicated in the guidance provided by Wachtel.

Mr. Matt Stevens has ideas about creating a bare root stock nursery at the DPW building to grow trees at a reasonable cost, leveraging a system discussed with Wachtel and potentially collaborating with the DNR to establish this at the department's facilities.

Ms. Wagner also noted plans to replace the boat launch in 2026, with Mr. Wirtz applying for a DNR grant to offset costs.

Mayor Bierce inquired if the barge problem was fixed. Ms. Wagner explained they cannot prohibit barges or charge them different rates per DNR regulations, but they will be increasing launch fees to the maximum allowed. She plans to install cameras to address declining revenue, which has dropped from approximately \$12,000 to \$5,000-\$6,000 annually, likely due to non-payment. They are also exploring adding a QR code payment option.

The new concrete boat launch will extend further into the water to eliminate power loading issues and will eliminate outrigger snags on cable ties.

Ms. Wagner mentioned that plans are in place for quiet zone improvements at Weyer Road, Watertown Road, and Green Road, operating under the assumption that approval from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for Weyer Road

improvements will be received to proceed in 2026.

Ms. Wagner detailed the forthcoming road construction projects, highlighting Greenhill and Yench Road as areas located for road and drainage improvements, noting the absence of utilities in these locations. She specified that Hickory Grove Estates will undergo road improvements only, following the rejection of the sewer proposal. The Lexington/Takoma project is set to proceed into its second phase. Furthermore, funds have been allocated for traffic signal enhancements at Lindsay and Pewaukee Roads, with anticipated cost-sharing arrangements with the Village of Pewaukee.

## 7. Highway Division

### 7.1 Discussion and possible action regarding the draft 2026 Highway Budget

Ms. Wagner presented the Highway budget, noting refinements to utility costs for the new DPW building as more data becomes available. The salt budget remained unchanged as they have a healthy stock from last year despite slight price increases. She mentioned the road repairs budget could potentially be increased for small overlays and spot repairs, though many problematic roads will be addressed in the next two years through larger projects.

Alderman Wamser inquired about the planned repairs to the City Hall parking lot. Ms. Wagner confirmed that the budget includes provisions for repaving all parking lots, repairing retaining walls, replacing the stairway to the upper parking lot, and addressing the abandonment of the old water tower space. Alderman Wamser further questioned potential measures to mitigate the deterioration of the stairs. Ms. Wagner clarified that the primary issue with the stairs was incomplete concrete curing before snowfall. She suggested exploring alternative solutions, such as utilizing fiber mesh.

## 8. Bike and Pedestrian

### 8.1 Discussion and possible action regarding the draft 2026 Bike and Pedestrian Budget

Ms. Wagner presented the Bike and Pedestrian budget, highlighting:

1. Design dollars for Watertown Road trail segments—one section from North Avenue to Springdale Road as part of a road project, and another section from North Avenue to almost Forest Grove Road.
2. A \$200,000 pedestrian crossing at Highway 164 and Ridgeview, requiring additional lights and reconfigured islands for safe landing spots.
3. A pedestrian crossing at Nettesheim Park to coincide with county road reconstruction in 2026.
4. \$300,000 for the city's share of the Fieldhack path from Lake Country Trail to the high school, with construction likely starting in late 2026 or early 2027.
5. A new \$1 million proposal for a path connecting Swan View Farms through Balmer Park to the sports complex, which would link several neighborhoods to the newly expanded sports facility. This would be a shorter alternative to the planned Swan Road/Lindsay Road path in the Bike and Pedestrian plan.

Mayor Bierce expressed support for keeping the new path project in the budget and moving it forward to the council for consideration.

9. Public Comment - Please limit your comments to two minutes. If further time for discussion is needed, please contact your District Alderperson prior to the meeting.

None

10. Adjournment

**A motion was made and seconded (M. Kreiter, J. Wamser) to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.** Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Magdelene Wagner  
Director of Public Works