



VILLAGE OF WEBSTER

JOINT UTILITIES & STREET COMMITTEES MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 3, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.

Webster Village Office
7461 Main Street West, Webster, WI

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Utilities Chair, Bill Summer at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Members Present: President, Ed Dedman; Utility Chair, Bill Summer; Trustees, Tim Maloney; Jeff Roberts, and Sue Weis. Others Present: Debra Doriott-Kuhnly, Clerk/Treasurer and Teresa Anderson, MSA. Members Absent: Trustees, Kelsey Gustafson and Matt Stuart.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AGENDA-DELETIONS/CORRECTIONS-Motion made by Dedman, seconded by Maloney, to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion about raising sewer rates and possible street improvement grant projects. Motion carried unanimously.

REPLACING WATER MAIN ON HWY 35/LAKELAND AV – The committee discussed the issue of replacing the water main on Highway 35/Lakeland Avenue. The original plan to dig up and replace the main was previously rejected by CDBG funding sources. Teresa presented a new approach of boring at a cost of approximately \$750,000.

The committee discussed numerous concerns about the project:

- **Age of the water main:** Summer noted that the asbestos pipe is 73 years old and has likely reached the end of its lifespan. The committee agreed they are essentially "living on borrowed time" with the current infrastructure.
- **Potential damage from DOT work:** Teresa explained that the vibrating equipment used by DOT during their planned road resurfacing could stress the asbestos pipe beyond its limits. She noted the difficulty of having to dig into a newly paved DOT road multiple times if the pipe fails after resurfacing.
- **Steam pipes concerns:** Summer expressed concerns about hitting steam pipes from the school during boring. The committee discussed that no one knew the exact location or depth of the steam pipes. Several members agreed to contact Ruben at the school, Mark Krause, or Sonny Stafford to locate records for these pipes or possibly conduct exploratory drilling to locate them.
- **Traffic management:** The committee discussed concerns about managing traffic during construction, especially considering summer traffic patterns. Teresa suggested they could likely barrel off lanes while maintaining two-way traffic, noting the road is wide enough to accommodate this.
- **Project timing and coordination with DOT:** The committee discussed the timeline for the Safe Drinking Water funding application (due June 2026) and coordinating with DOT's planned resurfacing. The consensus was to ask DOT to keep their project in 2028 rather than advancing it to 2027, which would give the village ample time to complete the water main replacement in 2027.
- **Funding opportunities:** Teresa explained that the Safe Drinking Water Program could provide 60% principal forgiveness based on the village's demographics, with the remaining amount available as a low-interest loan (33% of market rate). She noted the application would be due in June 2026 with notification in November 2026.

The committee discussed that the engineering and planning costs would need to be paid regardless of whether the project ultimately moved forward, estimated at approximately \$100,000.

No formal action was taken on this item, but there was consensus to bring a design contract to next week's board meeting with a letter canceling the previous two projects.

DISCUSSION ABOUT RAISING SEWER RATES -This item was added to the agenda during the meeting. The committee discussed the need to increase sewer rates, as the PSC controls water rates but the village has authority over sewer rates.

Summer suggested looking at the average bill for everyone in the village and examining percentile increases based on past practice. Teresa noted that some users down the road are paying \$19 per 1,000 gallons compared to the current \$1.96 per 1,000 gallons in Webster.

The current sewer rates were identified as \$41.64 quarterly plus \$1.96 per 1,000 gallons. The last increase was in January 2020.

The committee discussed various approaches, including:

- Potentially implementing different rate increases for residential versus commercial/industrial users
- Possibly implementing a 20% increase on the basic rate and a 10% increase on the volume rate, or vice versa
- Using a flat rate increase initially, followed by a more targeted approach after MSA completes their facilities plan study

There was consensus that the village needs to address sewer rates to keep up with costs and maintain adequate revenue, particularly with concerns about future phosphorus mitigation requirements for the lagoon system.

No formal action was taken, but there was direction to begin preparing rate increase options.

POSSIBLE STREET IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROJECTS-The committee discussed potential street projects eligible for grant funding. Two quotes from Monarch were presented:

- Bluegill Street: 165 feet by 20 feet wide, pulverizing and paving at a cost of \$10,760 (estimated to increase to approximately \$11,000 by next summer)
- Elm Street: 147 feet, saw cut, remove existing asphalt, fine grade base course, and pave at a cost of \$10,865

The entitlement grant available is just under \$7,000, but the village would need to match at least double that amount. The committee discussed combining these two projects to meet the funding requirements. They also discussed the possibility of resurfacing Apple Street from Highway 35 around the corner to Alder, which would likely cost between \$50,000-\$70,000.

The committee agreed that the Elm Street project should be the priority if they cannot combine projects, as it "gets used a ton" and is in particularly poor condition.

No formal action was taken, but there was direction to proceed with the grant application before the November 15 deadline, with a recommendation to ask whether submitting the projects as a combined application or as separate applications would be more advantageous.

MOTION TO ADJOURN -Motion by Dedman, seconded by Roberts, to adjourn the Joint Utilities and Street Committees meeting at 6:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Doriott-Kuhnly

Clerk-Treasurer

November 3, 2025

***These minutes are subject to approval at next month's Regular Meeting.