


WAUSAU WATER WORKS

FOR YOU!

Volume 13, No. 1

Winter 2011



Wausau Water Works Commissioners accept a plaque from Becher Hoppe Associates commemorating the utility's 125 years of providing water and wastewater treatment to the City of Wausau. Pictured (L-R) Archie Becher, Ken Ligman, Becher Hoppe Associates; Mayor Jim Tipple, L.S. (Sam) Rebman, Roger Otto, Ed Gale, George Million and former utility commissioner Ted Tellekson.

125 Years of Excellence Celebrated

September 22, 2010 commemorated the 125th anniversary celebration of Wausau Water Works with a ceremony which included speeches by Representative Donna Seidel, Nancy Quirk, Chair of the Wisconsin Water Association and Ken Blomberg, Executive Director of Wisconsin Rural Water Association. Becher Hoppe Associates representatives Archie Becher and Ken Ligman presented the Utility Commission with a plaque recognizing the occasion. To help further celebrate the 125th anniversary, a trivia contest was held, with Rose Schepp being awarded with a special prize package for her correct answers. Two separate \$125 grand prizes were awarded with the winners being Benno Lang and Jim Romanski. Cake and refreshments were served and tours were given of the facilities on Wednesday at the Water Treatment Plant and Thursday at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Many positive comments were received from those participating in the tours. Wausau Water Works would like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate *125 Years of Excellence!*

Sewer Rates Increase

Wausau residents and businesses will see an increase on the sewer portion of their bills starting with the bills due in March. Based on an independent rate study conducted by Baker Tilly, an average increase of 25% is needed to help the sewer utility meet the increase in operating expenses and offset a significant cash deficit.

At a public hearing held in December, staff made a presentation on the needs for the increase, as well as providing a history of the utility and major enhancements. This increase, the fourth in 22 years, will also help meet debt repayment requirements that will be a part of a major overhaul of the wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater treatment plants in general have a life expectancy of approximately 20 years and Wausau's plant was last upgraded in 1991. Being a corrosive process, much of the equipment is failing, has failed, or is not operating at full efficiency. Energy savings are being pursued in the equipment being replaced to help reduce the overall operating costs of the facility.

Although staff understands the tough economic times that are being experienced by our residents, postponing the increase was no longer an option. The utility, which does not receive any funding from the property taxes, relies strictly on their rates to operate. A complete schedule of the utility rates are shown on page 4.

Sewer Consumption Adjustment Policy

Many communities around this country, and even in Marathon County, struggle with providing adequate quantities of drinking water to their customers. Here in Wausau, we have been fortunate to have adequate water supplies, sometimes to the point of where we take what we have for granted. Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in unrepaired leaks or broken pipes in neglected properties. That water goes into the sanitary sewers where it must be treated at the wastewater plant, however the cost of that treatment is not being recuperated.

Beginning in 2011, residential customers will no longer see an automatic winter quarter adjustment on their sewer bills. What this means is that sewer will be charged based on the water consumption each quarter.

For 2011, customers may request an adjustment for water used for outdoor sprinkling, however starting in 2012 they will be required to pay the full amount of sewer based on their water use or install a separate, irrigation meter. All requests for adjustments are to be done in writing and must meet the criteria of the Sewer Consumption Adjustment Policy as noted below:

Adjustments that will be considered on a case by case basis:

- New lawn construction
- Discharge from swimming pools, hot tubs, etc. that does not enter the sanitary sewer system.
- For 2011 only—residential customers who file a request in writing will be considered for a sewer credit for outside watering. After 2011, all residential customers will pay sewer consumption based on their water consumption unless a separate irrigation (water only) meter is installed.

Requests for adjustments that will NOT be considered:

- Any type of plumbing leak (e.g. toilet leaks, leaking faucets or broken pipes, irrigation systems, etc.) or increase in sewage charges as a result of other surreptitious use of water.
- Any leaks resulting from vacant properties.
- **No adjustments will be offered on accounts that are not in “good standing”.**

All requests for sewer consumption adjustments will be reviewed by the Director of Public Works and Utilities or designee.

It will be the customer’s responsibility to provide the burden of proof that the water did not discharge into the sanitary sewer system. Under no circumstances will any credits be issued where plumbing issues have not been resolved.

All requests must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the due date for the billing in question. No more than one billing adjustment will be offered in a calendar year. Adjustments may be determined based on check reads of the property in question.

Wausau Water Works reserves the right to inspect property to confirm that discharge did not go into the sanitary sewer system. Wausau Water Works further reserves the right to back bill for accounts where the meter has stopped or has malfunctioned. Back billing will be based upon rates in effect at the time of the original billing. These procedures will apply to all customer classes.

Forms will be available at the Customer Service Department in City Hall or on the utility’s website at: www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/WausauWaterWorks.aspx

Businesses Required to Undergo Cross Connection Inspection

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has mandated that owners of commercial, industrial and publicly owned properties conduct a Cross Connection Survey every two years. This also includes residential properties with three or more living units. Wausau Water Works has sent letters to property owners advising of this requirement. Inspections are to be completed by the end of 2011. Commercial cross connection inspections will be done at the expense of the property owner.

Properties classified as low hazard in the initial survey will be required to be re-inspected on a 10 year basis.

Cross connections can occur when a drop in pressure in the water system causes a back siphoning into the system (such as when a hydrant is opened, or a water main breaks). Making sure that no cross connections exist ensures a safe drinking water supply for all our customers.

Residential customers can do their part to make sure the water supply stays safe by installing hose bib vacuum breakers on outside faucets and removing any hoses that may be connected to laundry tubs or other sinks or tubs. Additional information will be provided to single family residential property owners during routine meter upgrades.



For more information on the cross connection policy or how to prevent cross connections, contact Wausau Water Works at 715-261-7265.

Scenes from Wausau Water Works 125th Anniversary Celebration



Mayor Jim Tipple (above) makes the ceremonial cut on the cake During Wausau Water Works' 125th Anniversary Celebration September 22, 2010.



Guest speakers during the celebration included (top to bottom), Nancy Quirk, Chair of the Wisconsin Water Association; Representative Donna Seidel; and Ken Blomberg, Executive Director of Wisconsin Rural Water Association. A nice crowd attended the anniversary celebration and partook in tours of both the Water Treatment and the Wastewater Treatment Plants during the two-day celebration.

Wausau Water Works Honored by Wisconsin Water



Wausau Water Works was honored with a Utility Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Water Association

during their annual conference on September 16, 2010 in Madison, Wisconsin. The award was presented for a showcase video that was created highlighting the operations of the water and wastewater utility. The video was shown as part of the 125th Anniversary Celebration and can be viewed on the City of Wausau's website at www.ci.wausau.wi.us.

Accepting the award on behalf of Wausau Water Works were: Dave Erickson, Deb Geier, Dick Boers and John Motl.

New Faces, New Places

Welcome to Scott Carman who was recently hired as a sewer maintainer on the Sewer Collection crew. Scott replaces Matt Baker who transferred to the Department of Public Works. We wish both gentlemen well with their new endeavors.

Congrats Graduate!

Congratulations are extended to Tim Mesalk who recently completed the Electrical Instrumentation program through Northcentral Technical College. Tim took classes part-time over a five year period where he maintained an A average the entire time. Way to go Tim!

WWA recognizes Gehin With Lifetime Achievement Award

Joe Gehin was recognized by the Wisconsin Water Association (WWA) during their annual conference in September with a Lifetime Achievement Award. This prestigious award was presented not only for his years of service to the City of Wausau, but the water industry in general. Gehin, the former Director of Public Works and Utilities, retired in December 2009 after 30 years of service to the City of Wausau. Gehin served as Chair of the WWA, as well as International Director and on the Utility Council for the American Water Works Association, the parent organization of WWA. Gehin is also a former recipient of the George W. Fuller and Leon Smith awards through the Wisconsin Water Association.



Water Works Rate Schedule

Water Rates: Effective 7/1/10

Quarterly Service Charge

(based on size of water meter)

5/8 inch meter.....	\$ 15.45
3/4 inch meter.....	15.45
1 inch meter.....	24.72
1-1/4 inch meter	37.08
1-1/2 inch meter	43.26
2 inch meter.....	64.89
3 inch meter.....	117.42
4 inch meter.....	166.86
6 inch meter.....	315.18
8 inch meter.....	482.04
10 inch meter.....	707.61
12 inch meter.....	933.18

Plus Volume Charge below:

First 6,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.69 per 100 cubic feet.
 Next 54,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.53 per 100 cubic feet.
 Over 60,000 cubic feet used each quarter - \$1.16 per 100 cubic feet.

Wholesale Service (Brokaw)

Quarterly Charge \$167.00
 Volume Charge: \$1.46 per 100 cu. ft.

Sewer Rates: Effective 1/1/11

Quarterly Service Charge

(based on size of water meter)

5/8 inch meter	\$ 17.00
3/4 inch meter	17.00
1 inch meter	23.00
1-1/4 inch meter.....	32.00
1-1/2 inch meter.....	37.00
2 inch meter	62.00
3 inch meter	112.00
4 inch meter	183.00
6 inch meter	361.00
8 inch meter	568.00

Plus Volume Charge below:

All volume, as recorded by the water meter each quarter, shall be charged at the rate of \$2.59 per 100 cubic feet. Unmetered sewer rate is \$85.85 per quarter outside the City of Wausau.

Private Fire Protection: Eff. 3/1/06

(based on size of connection)

2 inch connection.....	\$ 12.00
3 inch connection.....	22.00
4 inch connection.....	37.00
6 inch connection.....	74.00
8 inch connection.....	117.00
10 inch connection.....	176.00
12 inch connection.....	256.00

Public Fire Protection: Eff. 7/1/10

(based on size of water meter)

5/8 inch meter.....	\$ 8.96
3/4 inch meter.....	8.96
1 inch meter.....	22.25
1-1/4 inch meter	32.75
1-1/2 inch meter	44.19
2 inch meter.....	71.07
3 inch meter.....	132.87
4 inch meter.....	222.48
6 inch meter.....	444.96
8 inch meter.....	704.52
10 inch meter.....	1056.78

Wholesale Public Fire Protection

(Brokaw) Quarterly Charge: \$2431.00

Payments must be received in the City of Wausau Customer Service Department, City Hall, by the 20th of each month. Payments received after the 20th of the month are subject to late payment charges in the amount of 1% of the outstanding balance.

Payments made at grocery stores, electronically, or through the mail, via the Milwaukee lockbox address should be made at least seven (7) days prior to the due date to ensure timely receipt.



