

SPECIAL MEETING MINTUES
VILLAGE OF ETTRICK
FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
July 15th, 2025

The Meeting of the Village of Ettrick Finance & Claims Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Village President Marc Baures. Present at the meeting: Committee Members Dan Molstad, Pete Filla, Harold Olson, Village President Marc Baures, Village Clerk Jane Jensen, Deputy Clerk Beth Osborn and via Zoom-Auditor Karen Wolfe of Engleson & Associates;

Karen Wolfe explained that fund transfers are required between Village Accounts because the Water Utility does not generate enough income to pay expenses. Jane Jensen noted that a 3% increase in water rates will take effect on 8/1/2025. Karen Wolfe recommended a more significant increase in water and sewer rates in 2026. She said that the WI Public Service Commission will evaluate the revenue and expenditures and will approve or disapprove the rate increase. Ms. Wolfe said that the Water Utility will make its' final payment on the Village Loan in 2030 and it will give the Village more flexibility. Harold Olson asked Karen for her thoughts on going to a referendum to generate operating funds. Marc Baures suggested a recurring referendum through 2020. Baures asked Karen why the Sewer Account has not repaid the General Account for a fund transfer. Karen said it was basically "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul". She noted that the focus should be on increasing rates. Dan Molstad said he believes the General Fund needs to repay the Sewer Fund, but there isn't money to accomplish that. Karen asked if the debt in question is an old debt from the 1998 water project. Marc said he will communicate with Ehlers for clarification on the matter. Harold Olson instructed Baures to ask Ehlers to assist with a rate increase. The board thanked Karen Wolfe for her input and she left the meeting at 10:30.

Pete Filla pointed out that the village has the financial reports available to justify a rate increase. Dan Molstad said he read an article in the League of WI Municipalities magazine suggesting municipalities consider charging various fees to generate income.

The committee asked Beth Osborn for clarification on the garbage and recycling revenue and expenses. Beth said she will create a report that more clearly defines the revenue and expenses.

Marc Baures thanked Beth Osborn, Jane Jensen and the Committee members for their input and for attending the meeting. The meeting concluded at 10:40 a.m.

Jane Jensen
Village Clerk
Village of Ettrick