WEST DES MOINES WATER WORKS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING COMMUNICATION

DATE: November 16, 2026

ITEM:

4. Adjust Water and Basic Service Charge Rates
   a. Public Hearing – Water and Basic Service Charge Rate Adjustments
   b. Resolution – Approving a Resolution Adjusting Water and Basic Service Charge Rates

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Increase in revenue from commodity and irrigation water will be determined by volume of sales in 2027.

SUMMARY:

The commodity water rate will be increased by 6.0% and set at $7.40 per 1,000 gallons, and the irrigation water rate will be increased by 6.0% and set at $9.25 per 1,000 gallons.

The basic service charge has been adjusted to the following amounts:

Meter size	3/4 & 5/8”	1”	1.5”	2”	3”	4”	6”	8”	10”
Monthly Charge 2026	$5.04	$5.76	$12.33	$14.46	$24.73	$46.01	$188.42	$453.81	$638.95

BACKGROUND:

An adjustment to the water rates is necessary to generate adequate revenues to pay for increasing costs of operation and a portion of planned capital outlay. The 2027 rate increases include costs for future water expansion needs, increased operating and maintenance costs, and covers the wholesale rate charged by Central Iowa Water Works. Staff have outlined a 5-year capital improvement plan to meet the drinking water needs of our community. While production assets are owned by Central Iowa Water Works and costs to maintain them will be included in the wholesale rate from CIWW, staff will continue to carry out a CIP for distribution system improvements and will carry out and be reimbursed for any joint capital projects as a producer.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

That the Board of Trustees hold the public hearing and take comments from the people present and that the Resolution entitled “Approving a Resolution Adjusting Water and Basic Service Charge Rates” be adopted.

Prepared by: _____

Approved for Content by: _____

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair, The Board of Trustees

FROM: Christina Murphy CAM

DATE: November 16, 2026

RE: Script for Conducting the Public Hearing on the 2027 Water Rate Adjustments

This is a script to assist you with the public hearing on today's agenda. The parts you will want to read aloud are in **larger, bold type.** A copy of the script has been provided to all of the Trustees.

Chair: **This is the time and place for a public hearing on the matter of the adoption of water rate adjustments for the West Des Moines Water Works for 2027.**

Ms. General Manager, please announce the date upon which the notice of public hearing was published.

General Manager: The notice of public hearing was published in the *Des Moines Register* on Friday, November 6, 2026.

Chair: **Have we received any written comments about this matter?**

General Manager: Reads any written comments received or says that none have been received.

Chair: **Are there any comments from anyone in the audience?**

Chair: (After all comments are received) **I declare the public hearing to be closed.**

(If comments from the public were presented, either written or verbal, they should be dealt with at this time. If there were objections to the rate adjustment, they should be overruled by a motion, a second to the motion and a vote to overrule. The rate adjustment needs to be adopted as is or modified, as needed, at this meeting.)

Chair: **I will entertain a motion to adopt the Resolution entitled "Approving A Resolution Adjusting Water and Basic Service Charge Rates" as found in your meeting packet.**

(The motion is seconded, and a vote is taken.)

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This concludes the needed actions by The Board of Trustees on this matter.

RESOLUTION
A RESOLUTION ADJUSTING WATER RATES AND BASIC SERVICE CHARGE RATES

WHEREAS, management of the West Des Moines Water Works is vested in The Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary that The Board of Trustees establish or adjust the rates, fees and charges used when providing services to its customers, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that it is necessary and in the public interest to adjust the rates applicable to the sale of water to its customers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST DES MOINES WATER WORKS, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Water Rate Schedule

That the following schedule of water rates be applied to customer bills which are calculated on or after the effective date of this Resolution:

All water measured by a water meter which is permanently connected to the water distribution system of the West Des Moines Water Works:

$7.40 per thousand gallons – non-irrigation rate
$9.25 per thousand gallons – irrigation rate

Except that water provided to the City of West Des Moines shall be provided without charge.

2. Establishment of Accounts and Billing Frequency

That a customer account be established and maintained for each water meter which is connected as described above and that all customer accounts so established shall be billed once each month for services provided.

That a customer account be established and maintained for each water meter which is installed for the sole purpose of measuring water consumption for the determining sanitary sewer service charges and that all customer accounts so established shall be billed once each month for services provided.

3. Service Availability Charge

That a separate charge for defraying the cost of providing water metering, billing, collecting and related work for that premise, that the service availability charge shall apply per calendar month based upon water meter size in accordance with the table shown below and that this charge may be referred to as a “Basic Service Charge”.

Meter Size	5/8" & 3/4"	1"	1.5"	2"	3"	4"	6"	8"	10"
Monthly Charge	$5.04	$5.76	$12.33	$14.46	$24.73	$46.01	$188.42	$453.81	$638.95

That in the event two or more accounts are established at a customer's premise, the service availability charge shall apply individually to each account.

That the service availability charge be applied to each customer account unless water service be discontinued, by the West Des Moines Water Works, or at the request of the customer, at the curb valve or other shut off device located at the premise served, except as provided hereinafter.

That the service availability charge be applied to each customer account which provides for sanitary sewer service only, as long as the premise associated with such account is provided sanitary sewer by the City of West Des Moines.

That the service availability charge be prorated according to the ratio of the number of days for which water service is available to a customer at a premise and the total number of days in the month.

4. Relief from Service Availability Charge

That whenever The Board of Trustees publishes written notice that a class or classes of customer accounts is (are) requested or required to discontinue water service, then said service availability charge shall not be applied during the period of time such request or requirement is effective, to accounts showing, by water meter reading, compliance with such request or requirement. Accounts showing compliance with such request or requirement shall not be billed during such period of time. Said notice shall state the effective dates of such request or requirement.

5. Bulk Water Rate

The water delivered through the coin operated vending apparatus at the Water Treatment Plant or sold pursuant to a Bulk Water Permit shall be sold at a rate of $14.80 per thousand gallons.

6. Amount Made Available for Capital Improvements

That annually, the sum of $150,000, or more if so directed by The Board of Trustees, derived from the sale of water under the provisions of this Resolution be deposited in the West Des Moines Water Works Future Capital Outlay Fund for application toward the capital costs of improvements to water supply, treatment, storage and distribution facilities.

7. Amount Made Available for Future Water Main Replacements

That annually, the sum of $250,000, or more if so directed by The Board of Trustees, derived from the sale of water under the provisions of this Resolution be deposited in the West Des Moines Water Works Future Capital Outlay Fund for application toward the capital costs of water main replacements.

8. Repealer

That all portions of Resolutions and Rules and Regulations of The Board of Trustees found to be in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed.

9. Effective Date

And that the effective date of this Resolution shall be January 1, 2027.

10. Central Iowa Water Works

The Board finds the rates hereby approved and adopted are and will be:

(a) Adequate to produce gross revenues at least sufficient to pay the expenses of operation and maintenance of the utility, including all of the utility's obligations to the Central Iowa Water Works in 2027, said obligations being an operating expense of the utility; and

(b) Adequate to leave a balance of net revenues sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the revenue bonds and pledge orders of the utility as they become due and to maintain a reasonable reserve for the payment of principal and interest and other obligations of the utility.

PASSED AND APPROVED this sixteenth day of November, 2026.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WEST DES MOINES WATER WORKS

_____
Jody E. Smith, Vice Chair

Attest:

_____
Christina Murphy
General Manager and Secretary