

VILLAGE OF MAZON
WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm on December 3, 2025.

Present: M. Murphy, J. Kowalewski, D. Punke, J. Frederick

Absent: K. Webster

The meeting was to discuss and review the IRWA water rate analysis.

M. Murphy and J. Frederick presented the water rate analysis that was conducted by Illinois Rural Water Association. They reviewed the data collected with the committee. M. Murphy presented documents showing the Water Fund shortfall that the village has had for the last 5 years. She stated she did not go back farther than that but assumed it went on longer. She also informed the committee that the reason this has gone unnoticed for so long is because even though we track water and sewer separately in our accounting software, when we are audited and given the presentation of our finances, the audit has always combined water and sewer revenues and expenses. This has been misleading because sewer is profitable. The IRWA made two minimum recommendations to help the village get their head above water. The recommendations from IRWA were to lower the base rate to 1,000 gallons and the second recommendation was to lower the base rate to 1,000 and add \$.50 to all water rates. This first recommendation does not get the village to the percentage of gains that the state wants us to be at. The second recommendation gets us just at the minimum percentage of where the state wants us to be. It was discussed that the alternative would and could lead to having to sell the entire water system to a private company. J. Frederick emphasized that our water system is 80 years old and we need to start planning on replacing it. Replacing the system is long overdue and we have to be able to afford to do it. The cost of this project is probably over 9MIL and will only get more expensive the longer we wait. He added the longer we wait to start this phase, the more major leaks we are going to endure. J. Frederick also talked about the iron and manganese build up in all the main and pipes. M. Murphy presented the current water rates that the village set on May 1, 2025. The committee discussed what these options would look like on a water bill and compared different usages. J. Kowalewski stated that he would recommend lowering the base rate to 1,000 gallons and adding \$1.00 to all water rates. D. Punke agreed. J. Kowalewski stated that he also suggests changing the usage for the usage rate of 3,001-15,000. He stated that he would like to see it split up. He suggested one rate to be 3,001-8,000 gallons and the next 8,001-15,000. Most residents' usage is below 8,000 gallons. D. Punke agreed. M. Murphy stated she will add this to the next agenda.

The committee meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

