



Village of Pewaukee Water Rate Update

January 23, 2026

In 2024 the Village of Pewaukee began an application for a water rate increase with the Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC is the governing body in the state of Wisconsin that regulates the rates for all utilities. The Village began this process because of improvements needed to the utility that were ordered by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The water utility in the Village faces two common challenges for public water systems in this area: PFAS and Radium. Like many of its neighboring communities; shallow wells have PFAS and water from deep wells have Radium. PFAS are widely used, long-lasting chemicals that break down slowly over time. A more detailed explanation of the PFAS from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency can be found at: [final-virtual-pfas-explainer-508.pdf](#). Radium is a naturally occurring element in the soil that can infiltrate the aquifer of a well. The DNR requires methods to remove them from the water system.

The projects contemplated by the Village to respond to the DNR orders are:

Well 7 Design, drill, construction	\$15,600,000
Well 4 Radium (HMO) treatment	\$3,550,000
Well 6 PFAS treatment temporary 2025-2028 & Permanent	\$8,000,000
Or Abandonment of Well 6 and Replaced with Well 8	\$9,030,000

The process at the PSC is close to being complete. They are considering increases to three of the six line-items on a Village water bill:

Line Items on Water Bill that are changing:	Old	New	Diff	
Base water charge (flat fee)	\$24.00	\$33.00	\$9.00	37.50%
Water Usage Charge (per 1,000 gals of water)	\$3.73	\$6.68	\$2.95	79.09%
Public Fire Protection (flat fee)*	\$24.00	\$49.53	\$25.53	106.38%

Other Line Items on Water Bill NOT changing:	Old	New	Diff	
Sewer Usage Charge (per 1,000 gals water)	\$8.65	\$8.65	\$0.00	0.00%
Storm Water (flat fee per parcel)	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Garbage (flat fee per parcel)	\$51.00	\$51.00	\$0.00	0.00%

*The PSC recognizes that fire departments utilize water systems when they fight fires. They determine an amount that each public water utility should charge as a contribution to the maintenance of water towers, mains and hydrants for fire protection.

The impact of these increases on an average household would be:

Net Impact on a household	Old	New	Diff	
Household using 7,988 gallons for a quarter	\$223.74	\$278.96	\$55.22	24.68%

Of the \$55.22 Increase

Amount that is an increase from the new flat fees \$34.53

Amount that is an increase from the new water usage rate \$20.69

The increases have not been approved yet. If approved, the PSC will set the date that the new rates are to take effect. Village staff are exploring with the PSC the ability to spread out the increase over a number of billing cycles. The PSC calls it a “Phase-in”.