Village of Camp Douglas
Proposed Water Rate Increase

The **Village of Camp Douglas Water Utility** has applied to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) for a conventional rate case (**Docket 950-WR-104**). Because we know every change to your monthly household budget matters, we want to share **what may change if approved**, **why it is happening now**, and **what it means for your monthly bill**.

Why Are Rates Changing Now?

- **First Full Review in 12 Years:** Camp Douglas has not had a conventional rate case in **12 years**, relying on only two minor inflation adjustments during that time. The Village also requested the PSC authorization to collect a direct Public Fire Protection charge from each customer of the water utility.
- **Rising Operating Costs:** Over the past decade, the cost of electricity, water treatment chemicals, state-mandated testing, and system parts has increased significantly. The increase is necessary due to a 43.11% increase in gross plant investment and 77.27% increase in operating expenses since the last conventional rate case.
- **Investing in Reliability:** Your monthly water rates pay directly to maintain our wells, pumps, storage, and underground mains so clean, safe water flows every time you turn on the tap.
- **Non-Profit Local Service:** As a municipal water utility, **we do not make a profit**. Every dollar collected stays strictly inside the Camp Douglas Water Utility to cover the actual cost of providing water service.

What Will This Mean for My Monthly Bill?

Customer Type (5/8" meters)	Typical Monthly Usage	Current Monthly Bill	Proposed Monthly Bill
Low User *(e.g., 1-person household)*	1,500 gal	$18.78	$30.30 + $15.85 PFP Charge
Average Residential Home	3,000 gal	$24.51	$38.59 + $15.85 PFP Charge
High User *(e.g., large family)*	6,000 gal	$35.97	$55.18 + $15.85 PFP Charge

Please note, this rate case and example above is only for the water portion of your utility bill. PFP Charges will be different for 1" meters and above. Reach out to the Clerk's Office with questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the "Public Fire Protection" (PFP) charge?
This charge is required by State law and regulated by the State of Wisconsin's Public Service Commission. It recovers the cost of water for fighting fires and the extra capacity built into the system to rapidly deliver a large volume of water to fight a fire anywhere within the Water Utility's service area. These costs include a portion of wells, pumps, storage facilities, water mains, hydrants, and an estimated quantity of water used for this purpose.

2. How has Public Fire Protection been paid in the past?
The Village currently pays for Public Fire Protection by using property tax dollars to subsidize the Water Utility at the rate of $34,783. With an approved rate increase, the proposed total PFP cost is $59,010. Using property tax dollars to subsidize PFP charges helped maintain a lower cost of water services for residents and businesses currently connected to the water utility.

3. **Why may it move to my water bill?**
Due to budget constraints, state-imposed property tax levy limits, and consistent rising operating costs, the Village can no longer afford to subsidize the Water Utility through the use of general property taxes. Placing PFP directly on monthly water bills is a fairer way to fund fire protection because **every property** protected by our hydrants—including tax-exempt properties like government facilities, schools, and churches—contributes its fair share, rather than placing 100% of the cost on property taxpayers.

4. Is the Village using water money for roads, parks, or other budgets?
No. Under Wisconsin law, municipal water utilities are strictly regulated enterprise funds. Water revenues cannot be transferred to pay for general Village expenses.

5. Who reviews and approves these rates?
The Village Board cannot raise water rates on its own. Every expense and proposed rate is independently audited and approved by the **Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC)** to ensure rates are fair and strictly cost-based.

Have Questions or Want to Share Feedback?

- **Review the Application:** Copies are available at **Village Hall (304 Center St.)** or online at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Electronic Records Filing System under Docket **950-WR-104**.

- **PSC Public Hearing:** Join the virtual/telephonic hearing on **Thursday, December 17, 2026** at **11:00 a.m.** Instructions to join by Zoom or phone are printed on the official PSC hearing notice. This can be found at the Village Hall, Royal Bank, Camp Douglas Post Office, or online at campdouglaswi.com

- **Talk to Us Directly:** Stop by Village Hall or call **(608) 427-3355**—we are always glad to walk through your monthly bill with you.