



Public Works Agenda Item

Meeting Date: October 13, 2026

Agenda Item: Well 5 Filter Tank Repair

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Brad Marquardt, bmarguardt@whitewater-wi.gov, 262-473-0139

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

In August of this year, the Water Utility received complaints regarding sand in the distribution system around Starin Park and at WE Energies. Upon investigating the complaint, it was discovered that the filter tank for Well 5 had a failure inside the tank. The joint between the filter cell wall and the filter cell floor failed which allowed the media (sand like material that the water drains through before entering the distribution system) to enter into the clean water cell in the bottom of the tank. Since that time, Strand has been working on alternatives and obtaining cost estimates to get the filter operational.

Attached is Strands report outlining long-term and short-term alternatives. As indicated in the report, the long-term alternatives would take 2 to 4 years to get a new filter operational. The two short-term fixes would take 2 to 6 months, but do come with additional risks.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

Estimated costs range from \$190,000 - \$390,000 depending on the option. Money from reserves would be used to pay for the initial costs. A reimbursement resolution would be introduced at council for the possibility of borrowing money in 2027 to repay the reserves. Due to the unplanned failure and the well being out of service, Staff is declaring this an emergency and as such will work directly with the City's contractor already onsite for the Well 7 modification project, and the filter tank manufacturer.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Water Utility is planning to do a system modeling update and planning study in 2027. By selecting short-term alternative 2, the fix to the filter tank should provide enough time for the planning study to be completed and upgrades to the facility to be incorporated into future budgets. Based on this, Staff recommends a motion to move forward with the short-term alternative 2 option and forward to council for approval as part of the reimbursement resolution.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. Well 5 Filter Tank Alternatives
