

M A N I T O B A) Order No. 34/06
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) March 7, 2006

BEFORE: Graham F. J. Lane, C.A., Chairman
 M. Girouard, C.G.A., Member
 S. Proven, P.H.Ec., Member

**THE TOWN OF PLUM COULEE
INTERIM WATER RATES
BY-LAW NO. 692-06**

Introduction

The Town of Plum Coulee (the Town) applied to The Public Utilities Board (the Board) for revised water rates effective April 1, 2006 to pass-through the increased cost of purchasing water from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc. The increase to the Town was \$0.50 per thousand gallons or \$0.11 per cubic meter. The Town proposed to flow through this increase only and proposed no change to the sewer rates. For similar reasons, an application was made by the Town in 2005 and subsequently approved by the Board.

The existing and proposed rates are as follows:

	Existing		Proposed	
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer
First 450 cubic meters	\$1.59	\$0.54	\$1.70	\$0.54
Over 450 cubic meters	\$1.27	\$0.54	\$1.38	\$0.54

The residential customer's minimum bill is proposed to increase from \$41.34 to \$43.32 or approximately 5%.

Board Findings

The Board will approve the Application noting that this request to pass-through increased costs is consistent with the practice followed in the previous years and reflects a cost increase imposed by the Pembina Valley Water Co-operative beyond the control of the Town. Municipalities generally, and the Town specifically, make these Applications to preserve their financial integrity.

As the matter is of some urgency as the increase takes effect April 1, 2006, the Board will approve the Application on an interim ex parte basis.

The Board has issued a Press Release providing details of this decision and will require the Town to notify its customers of the Board's Order and the reasons for the Application.

SCHEDULE "A"
TO BOARD ORDER NO. 34/06
THE TOWN OF PLUM COULEE
INTERIM WATER RATES
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A. SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES

1. Commodity Rates per Cubic Meter:

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Water & Sewer</u>
First 450 cubic meters per quarter	\$1.70	\$.54	\$2.24
Over 450 cubic meters per quarter	1.38	.54	1.92

2. Minimum Quarterly Charges

Notwithstanding the Commodity rates set forth in Paragraph one (1) hereof, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges set out below, which will include water allowances indicated:

Meter Size	Group Capacity Ratio	Water Included Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
				Water	Sewer	
¾"	2.0	18	3.00	\$ 30.60	\$ 9.72	\$ 43.32
1"	4.0	36	3.00	61.20	19.44	83.64
1½"	10.0	90	3.00	153.00	48.60	204.60
2"	25.0	225	3.00	382.50	121.50	507.00

3. Water Only Customers

Minimum charge will be the same for each meter size as shown above, but the Sewer Commodity Charge will be excluded.

4. Sewer Only for Residential Customers

The Town of Plum Coulee do charge the owners or occupants of land serviced with sewer but no water the sum of \$27.30 per quarter.

B. BULK WATER SALES

All Bulk Water sold by the Utility will be charged at the rate of \$2.24 per cubic meter.

C. SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS OUTSIDE MUNICIPALITY, OR L.I.D. LIMITS

The Council of the Municipality may sign agreements with customers for the provision of water and sewer services to properties located outside the legal boundaries of the Municipality. Such agreements shall provide for payment of the appropriate rates as set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this schedule, as well as a surcharge, set by resolution of Council, which shall be equivalent to the frontage levy, and general and special taxes for Utility purposes in effect at the time, or as may be in effect from time to time, and would be levied on the property concerned if it were within these boundaries. In addition, all costs of connecting to the Utility's mains, and installing and maintaining service connections will be paid by the customer.

D. THAT the Town of Plum Coulee pay to the Utility an Annual Rental Fee of \$50.00 per water hydrant to cover the cost of maintaining and replacing all hydrants connected to the system; water used in fire fighting will also be paid by the Town.

E. THAT bills be due and payable within 30 days of billing date, and that a penalty of 10% of the bill be charged if not paid by the due date.

F. THAT service may be discontinued and disconnected immediately and without further notice in the even of non-payment of an account within 30 days after due date.

- G. THAT any service disconnected due to non-payment of an account shall not be reconnected until all arrears, penalties and a reconnection fee of \$50.00 have been paid.
- H. THAT any unpaid account, including any penalties will be added to the Tax Roll pursuant to Section 252, Subsection (2) of the Municipal Act.
- I. THAT a customer who requires a replacement of a meter which he feels is not accurate shall pay a charge of \$50.00 for each such replacement, but such charge shall be refunded if the meter is found to be not accurate in excess of the legal limit.