

M A N I T O B A) Order No. 121/06
)
THE PUBLIC UTILILTIES BOARD ACT) August 22, 2006

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

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF FRANKLIN
LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2 (VILLAGE OF DOMINION CITY)
REVISED WATER AND SEWER RATES

Introduction

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves the Rural Municipality of Franklin's (R.M.) application to pass-through a \$0.50 per thousand gallon increase in its cost of purchasing water from the Pembina Valley Water Co-operative (PVWC). The rate increase is effective for all consumption billed following the date of this Order.

Commodity rates will increase from \$13.00 to \$13.50 per thousand gallons; residential minimum quarterly bills will increase from \$61.50 to \$63.00.

Application

The R.M. purchases water from PVWC, which provided notice to the R.M. that the cost of water to the R.M. would increase by \$0.50 per thousand gallons effective April 1, 2006.

Similar to other municipalities receiving water from PVWC, the R.M. applied to the Board to pass-through the increase to its customers, as represented in By-law No. 17-06 certified as read the first time on July 11, 2006. The R.M. proposed increasing the water commodity rate from \$13.00 to \$13.50 per thousand gallons; sewer and bulk water rates were to be unchanged.

As a result, minimum quarterly bills were to increase, with the residential quarterly bill to increase from \$61.50 to \$63.00.

Pursuant to the Board's instructions, the R.M. mailed a Notice of its Application to each customer. The Notice invited

customers to write the Board by August 18, 2006 with any concerns; no concerns were received by the Board.

Board Findings

The Board is aware of the rates charged by the PVWC and notes that the R.M.'s "pass through" application is consistent with the practice followed by other municipalities.

The Board accepts that the rate changes are necessary to preserve the financial health of the R.M.'s utility.

The Board is satisfied that the R.M. has followed the typical industry practice in this regard and, noting no concerns were filed with the Board, will approve the application.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. By-law No. 17-06 of The Rural Municipality of Franklin serving Local Improvement District No. 2 (Village of Dominion City) IS HEREBY APPROVED.
2. The water and sewer rates set forth in Schedule "A" hereto shall apply to all customers of the utility effective on all water consumed and on all minimum bills effective on the next billing in the normal course after the date of this Order.
3. The Town is to advise its customers of the Board's decision.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"GRAHAM F. J. LANE, C.A."
Chairman

"G. O. BARRON"
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of
Order No. 121/06 issued by
The Public Utilities Board

Acting Secretary

SCHEDULE "A"

TO BOARD ORDER NO. 121/06

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF FRANKLIN

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 2 (VILLAGE OF DOMINION CITY)

WATER AND SEWER RATES

BY-LAW NO. 17-06

1. Commodity Rates per M.G.

	Water	Sewer	Total
All Water Consumption	\$13.50	\$4.40	\$17.90

2. Minimum Charges (Quarterly):

Notwithstanding the Commodity Rates set forth in paragraph 1 hereof, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges set out below, which will include allowances as indicated:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Group Capacity Ratio</u>	<u>Water Included Gallons</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Service Charge</u>	<u>Total</u>
5/8"	1	3,000	\$40.50	\$ 13.20	\$9.30	\$ 63.00
3/4"	2	6,000	\$81.00	\$ 26.40	\$9.30	\$ 116.70
1"	4	12,000	\$162.00	\$ 52.80	\$9.30	\$ 224.10
1 1/2"	10	30,000	\$405.00	\$132.00	\$9.30	\$ 546.30
2"	25	75,000	\$1,012.50	\$330.00	\$9.30	\$1,351.80

Water Only Customers:

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

3. Bulk Sales Rate:

All water sold in bulk by the LID of Dominion City shall be charged for at a rate of \$0.25 per 15 gallons = Bulk rate of \$16.80 M.G.

4. Billings and Penalties for Non-payment of Account:

All connected customers shall be billed quarterly and payment shall be due and payable by the 15th of the following month. A penalty of one and one quarter percent (1.25%) is to be added to any bill not paid by the due date and on the fifteenth (15th) day of every month thereafter and a notice to this effect shall be clearly printed on the bills sent to the customers.

5. Hydrant Rentals:

The LID of Dominion City shall pay the Utility an annual rental of \$50.00 for each hydrant connected to the system.

6. Disconnection and Reconnection of Service:

If any bill issued pursuant to paragraph 4 hereof is not paid within thirty (30) days of the billing date, the municipality may disconnect and discontinue service to that customer immediately and without further notice.

If any service is discontinued, pursuant to this clause, such service shall not be reconnected until payment has been made for a reconnection charge of Twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, plus the amount of any unpaid bills and penalties.

7. Liability for Charges:

Where charges and penalties pursuant to this by-law are not paid by the end of the year in which they have been incurred, said charges and penalties shall be added to the taxes on the property and collected in the same manner as other taxes.

8. Repairs and Maintenance; Estimated Charges:

(1) Where a break occurs in the water lines on private property or damage is caused to a meter installed in a building to which water is supplied, the occupier or the owner of that property shall be liable for:

(a) all costs of repairing or replacing said water lines and/or meter, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, costs of materials, labor and machine rentals;

- (b) Water charges for the period of time that the meter is inoperative, based on the average daily consumption of the system for the 10 day period immediately preceding the damage to the lines and/or meter.
 - (2) Any costs charged to an occupier or owner of property pursuant to paragraph (1) of this section which are not paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice shall be added to the taxes on that property and collected in the same manner as other taxes.
9. Service to Customers outside the limits of Local Improvement District No. 2:

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