

M A N I T O B A                    )     Order No. 103/08  
  )  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT    )     July 15, 2008

BEFORE:   Graham Lane, CA, Chairman  
            Susan Proven, P.H.Ec., Member  
            Monica Girouard, CGA, Member

**TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH**  
**WATER AND SEWER RATES**

### **Executive Summary**

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) confirms water and sewer rates approved by the Board by way of interim ex parte Order 24/07, dated March 12, 2007.

Order 24/07 approved a 3% across-the-board increase. Notice of the Board's intention to confirm or otherwise vary Order 24/07 was published in the local newspaper; the Board received no responses.

There is no rate change as a result of this Order, which should be read in conjunction with Orders No. 24/07 and 165/05 (all Orders are available on the Board's website [www.pub.gov.mb.ca](http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca).)

### **Background**

On March 12, 2007, the Board issued Interim Ex Parte Order 24/07 approving revised interim rates for the Town of Winnipeg Beach - a 3% across-the-board water and sewer rate increase.

The Order flowed from a public hearing held in November 2005 and the resultant Order 165/05, wherein the Board noted the possibility of a further increase being considered by the Board on an interim ex parte basis to avoid the costs associated with advertising and a full hearing so soon after the November 2005 public hearing in Winnipeg Beach.

Order 165/05 noted a number of challenges facing the Town's utility, one of which being the costs related to the introduction of meters. The Town was then seeking a grant from

the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB) to install meters, expecting to, if unsuccessful, to proceed in any case with the costs to be recovered through utility rates.

The Town subsequently advised that as the Town had been unsuccessful seeking funding, currently the Town is conducting an engineering assessment of the Utility and based upon this review will consider the matter of meters further at a later date.

### **Application**

The Town filed an Application for increased water and sewer rates on November 3, 2006 supported by its By-law No. 17/2006. The Town's rate proposal was based on higher costs due to ongoing inflation and the need to plan for future maintenance of the system.

The Board determined that the need for rate relief was urgent and issued interim ex parte Order 24/07 by which rates were to be confirmed or otherwise varied at the next earliest opportunity.

In furtherance of the Board's decision to minimize regulatory costs, the Board has now conducted a paper hearing process to consider Order 24/07. Notice of the Board's intention to finalize the interim rates was published in the local newspaper on two (2) occasions and the notice invited the public to comment on the Town's Application and the resulting interim ex parte Order 24/07; no responses were received.

The Town subsequently advised of a 2007 operating surplus of \$1,376.90 and that a balanced budget was anticipated for 2008. The Town reported that it considered the rates to be adequate for the needs of the community.

#### **Board Findings**

Having notified ratepayers of the Board's intention to confirm or otherwise vary Interim Ex Parte Order 24/07 and having received no response and having reviewed the interim rates, the Board will confirm same.

While the Board is pleased to note that current rates have allowed the utility to earn a surplus in 2007 and that a breakeven position is expected for 2008, after taking into account a \$15,000 transfer into reserves for capital renewal, it looks forward to the assessment and potential subsequent progress with metering. Metering provides for fair assessments based on actual usage and promotes water conservation, both useful objectives.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. Interim Ex Parte Order 24/07 dated March 12, 2007 IS HEREBY  
CONFIRMED.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"GRAHAM LANE, CA"

Chairman

"G.O. BARRON, FCGA"

Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No.  
103/08 issued by The Public  
Utilities Board

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Acting Secretary