

M A N I T O B A) Order No. 160/09
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) December 3, 2009

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

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKWOOD
THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSSER
GROSSE ISLE UTILITY
INTERIM WATER AND SEWER RATES

Amended: December 10, 2009

Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves on an interim *ex parte* basis initial water and sewer rates for the Rural Municipality of Rosser (Rosser) and the Rural Municipality of Rockwood (Rockwood).

The interim rates are to be charged to customers served under the Grosse Isle and Rosser Rural Regional Water system, and are effective immediately and retroactively for all water consumed and sewer services provided since connecting to the system, some as early as December 2008.

Rates are as follows:

Quarterly water and sewer commodity rates:

	Interim
Customer Service Charge	\$16.30
Volumetric Charge per m ³ for water	\$ 2.49
Volumetric Charge m ³ for sewer	\$ 1.12

Minimum Quarterly Charges - Sewer and Water Service:

Meter Size	Water Included (m³)	Customer Service Charge	Water Charge	Sewer Charge	Quarterly Minimum
15 mm (5/8")	15	\$16.30	\$ 37.35	\$ 16.80	\$ 70.45
19 mm (3/4")	30	\$16.30	\$ 74.70	\$ 33.60	\$ 124.60
25 mm (1")	60	\$16.30	\$ 149.40	\$ 67.20	\$ 232.90
38 mm (1-1/2")	120	\$16.30	\$ 298.80	\$ 134.40	\$ 449.50
50 mm (2")	240	\$16.30	\$ 597.60	\$ 268.80	\$ 882.70

The Board's interim approval of these rates is provided on a conditional basis and without prior public notice due to the urgent need of the utility to generate revenues to fund operations and

minimize the magnitude of the first billing to customers.

Background

On November 13, 2009, Rosser and Rockwood applied to the Board for interim water and sewer rates.

The municipalities advised the Board that the Grosse Isle and Rosser Rural Regional Water system is nearing completion, and that water connections in the rural areas commenced in December 2008 (with the majority of connections being completed at the end of March or the beginning of April 2009). In Grosse Isle water and sewer connections began in September 2009. Rosser advised that readings had been taken in July and October for the rural residents and has requested approval to bill from the "0" reading. Rosser confirmed that its water supply is meeting water standards for safe drinking water.

A water and sewer rate study has been completed and submitted to the Board for consideration. However, as this process takes time, Rosser requested approval from the Board to implement rates immediately so as to generate revenues for the utility. Rosser advised that while water services have been provided, sewer service is only available to some as not all connections have been made. All charges will be based on metered water service and will be billed as connections to the service(s) are made.

Board Findings

The Board finds that there is a need to implement utility rates immediately to generate revenue, and, accordingly, provides on an interim *ex parte* basis the rates noted herein, with billing to

commence from a "0" reading.

The Board requires Rosser and Rockwood to adopt interim water and sewer rate by-laws to agree with the provisions of this Order, including standard terms and conditions for the provision of service, and provide notice to its customers as soon as possible of the immediate implementation of rates.

The Board intends to review the application previously filed, as well as any additional information received up to the date at a yet to be scheduled hearing, and establish reasonable rates sufficient to provide for future breakeven operations of the utility. The Board will also require the municipalities to issue a public notice to allow ratepayers an opportunity to address current interim and proposed rates.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pub.gov.mb.ca.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Rural Municipality of Rosser and the Rural Municipality of Rockwood are hereby directed to prepare and adopt water and sewer rate by-laws to agree with this Order and Schedule "A", attached hereto, for interim *ex parte* rates to be effective immediately on all water consumed and sewer services provided since connecting to the system.
2. The Rural Municipality of Rosser and the Rural Municipality of Rockwood provide notice to its customers of this immediate rate, such notice to be vetted by the Public Utilities Board

Fees payable upon this Order - \$50.00.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"GRAHAM LANE, CA"

Chairman

"KRISTINE SHIELDS"

Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No.
160/09 issued by the Public Utilities
Board

Acting Secretary

Schedule "A"
To
Board Order No. 160/09

Rural Municipality of Rosser
Rural Municipality of Rockwood

Quarterly water and sewer commodity rates:

	Interim
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Water Only Customers

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

Service to Customers Outside Municipality

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 above in 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 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 customer.

Billings and Penalties

A late payment charge of One and One Quarter Percent (1 1/4%) per month shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date. The due date will be the last day of the month of billing.

Disconnection

The Public Utilities Board has approved the Conditions Precedent to be followed by the municipality with respect to the disconnection of service for non-payment including, such matters, as notice and the right to appeal such action to the Public Utilities Board. A copy of the Conditions Precedent is available for inspection at the Municipality's office.