

Summary:

The Public Utilities Board (Board) varies the effective date of Board Order No. 102/14 from October 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015 for the Town of Birtle's (Town) water and sewer utility.

Details of the rates are attached as Schedule "A".

Background:

On October 11, 2013 the Board issued Order No. 121/13 setting water and sewer rates effective October 1, 2013; January 1, 2014; and January 1, 2015. Rates were set based on residential equivalency units (REUs), one REU being the volume of water estimated to be used by the average single family residence. Units allocated to other customers are based on estimated water they will use, as compared with a residence. REUs are used in communities with unmetered distribution and collection systems, where information regarding actual consumption is unavailable.

The Town submitted a request on August 27, 2014 to vary Board Order No. 121/13. This was followed by Council Resolution #2014 119, dated September 9, 2014. The Town had recently completed a project to install meters throughout the community, and requested the Board's approval to change their rates from REU's to actual consumption. The Town provided notice to its customers of its intention to proceed with this application in the August 1, 2014 billing.

On November 3, 2014, the Town of Birtle requested the Board consider a variance to Board Order No. 102/14, changing the effective date from October 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015.

Due to some technical difficulties, the Town was unable to perform an initial meter read for the billing period beginning October 1, 2014. The Town advised that they were working on having these problems fixed and anticipate being able to perform the initial meter read for the billing period beginning January 1, 2015.

A Resolution of Council approving this request was forwarded after the Council meeting of November 12, 2014. The Board received it on November 17, 2014.

Board Findings:

The Board approves the Town's request to review and vary the effective date of Board Order No. 102/14 from October 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015.

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 HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Town of Birtle's request to vary the effective date of Public Utilities Board Order No. 102/14 as set out in Schedule "A" to this Order, BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED with the revised effective date of January 1, 2015.
2. The Town of Birtle amend its water and sewer rate By-law for the Water and Sewer Utility to reflect the decisions in this Order and submit a copy to the Board once it has received third and final reading.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"SUSAN PROVEN, P.H.Ec."
Acting Chair

"JENNIFER DUBOIS, CMA"
Acting Secretary

Schedule "A"
Town of Birtle
Water & Sewer Rates

1. Commodity Rates per 1,000 Gallons:

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Water & Sewer</u>
Effective January 1, 2015	8.40	1.42	9.82

2. Minimum Charges, Quarterly

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

a) Water & Sewer Customers

Effective January 1, 2015

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Water Inc Gallons</u>	<u>Customer Service Charge</u>	<u>Commodity Charges</u>		<u>Quarterly Minimum</u>
			<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	
5/8"	3,000	\$16.45	\$25.20	\$4.26	\$45.91
3/4"	6,000	\$16.45	\$50.40	\$8.52	\$75.37
1"	12,000	\$16.45	\$100.80	\$17.04	\$134.29
1 1/4"	21,000	\$16.45	\$176.40	\$29.82	\$222.67
1 1/2"	30,000	\$16.45	\$252.00	\$42.60	\$311.05
2"	75,000	\$16.45	\$630.00	\$106.50	\$752.95

Note: All calculations are based on the following:

Total Water expenses:	2014	<u>\$237,014</u>	2015	<u>\$ 242,777</u>
Total water usage		28,900		28,900
Total Sewer expenses	2014	<u>\$ 40,198</u>	2015	<u>\$ 41,019</u>
Total sewage usage		28,900		28,900