

MANITOBA ) Order No. 26/14  
 )  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT ) March 7, 2014

BEFORE: Susan Proven, P.H.Ec, Acting Chair  
The Hon. Anita Neville, P.C., B.A. (Hons.), Member

ORDER VARYING BOARD ORDER No. 29/13  
FOR  
TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS  
INTERIM INITIAL WATER RATES

**Summary:**

The Town of Grand Rapids (Town) requested that the Public Utilities Board (Board) reconsider the effective date of the Interim Rates established by Board Order 29/13.

The Town requested that initial billings be delayed until December 2013 with first billing to occur in March 2014.

After review, the Public Utilities Board (Board) varies Board Order No.29/13 as follows:

- Customers are billed the appropriate minimum charge only from May 1, 2012 (or their date of connection, if later) to December 27, 2013.
- Customers are billed based on water meter readings from December 28, 2013 on.
- The Town file deficit applications for 2011, 2012 and 2013 on or before April 30, 2014 including a method of recovery for those amounts

**Background:**

On March 20, 2013 the Board issued Order 29/13 setting interim initial rates effective retroactive for May 1, 2012.

**Request to Review and Vary:**

The Village submitted a request on February 14, 2014 to amend Board Order No. 29/13 to be effective as of December 28, 2013 with first billing to occur on March 31, 2014.

In its covering letter to the Board, the Town sought that the Board consider the unintentional hardship created by the Order and review and vary the effective date of the interim rates as set in Board Order 29/13.

**Board Findings:**

After considering the information filed and Board Order 29/13, the Board concludes that the Order is to be varied as follows:

- Customers are billed the appropriate minimum charge only from May 1, 2012 (or their date of connection, if later) to December 27, 2013.
- Customers are billed based on water meter readings from December 28, 2013 on.
- The Town file deficit applications for 2011, 2012 and 2013 on or before April 30, 2014 including a method of recovery for those amounts.

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](http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca).

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

Schedule "A" of the Public Utilities Board Order No.29/13 BE AND IS HEREBY VARIED as follows:

- Customers are billed the appropriate minimum charge only from May 1, 2012 (or their date of connection, if later) to December 27, 2013.
- Customers are billed based on water meter readings from December 28, 2013 on.
- The Town file deficit applications for 2011, 2012 and 2013 on or before March 31, 2014 including a method of recovery for those amounts.

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"

The Town of Grand Rapids

Water and Sewer Rates

By-Law No. 710

SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES:

- |    |                                 |              |              |                          |
|----|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | <u>Commodity rates per M.G.</u> | <u>Water</u> | <u>Sewer</u> | <u>Water &amp; Sewer</u> |
|    | All water consumption           | \$1.76       | \$1.73       | \$3.49                   |
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 water allowances indicated:

(a) Water and Sewer Customers

Meter Size (mm)	Group Capacity Ratio	Water Included (m3)	Admin. Fee	Commodity Water	Charges Sewer	Total Quarterly Minimum
15.80	1.60	13	\$15.43	\$22.85	\$22.55	\$60.83
50.00	16.00	100	\$15.43	\$175.73	\$173.50	\$364.66
150.00	144.00	300	\$15.43	\$527.20	\$520.49	\$1,063.12
300.00	576.00	1000	\$15.43	\$1,757.53	\$1,734.98	\$3,507.73

(b) Water Only Customers

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

(c) Sewer Only for Residential Customers

The Town of Grand Rapids do charge the owners or occupants of land serviced with sewer no water the sum of \$58.70 per quarter.

3. Bulk Sales Rate

All water sold in bulk by the Town of Grand Rapids shall be charged for at the rate of \$12.35 per 1,000 gallons on a pro-rated basis for all quantities greater than 500 gallons. For any quantity of 500 gallons or less the minimum charge will be \$11.75

4. Service to Customers Outside Municipality, Town, or L.I.D., Limits

The Council of the Town of Grand Rapids may sign agreements with customers for the provision of water and sewer services to properties located outside the legal boundaries of the Town of Grand Rapids. Such agreements shall provide for payment of the appropriate rates set out in the 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 of connecting to the utility's mains and installing and maintaining service connections will be paid by the customer.

5. Billings and Penalties

A late payment charge of the 1 ¼% shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date. The due date will be at least fourteen days after the mailing of the bills.

6. 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.

7. Reconnection

Any service disconnected due to non-payment of account shall be not be reconnected until all arrears, penalties and a reconnection fee of \$50.00 have been paid.

8. Outstanding Bills

Pursuant to Section 252(2) of *The Municipal Act*, the amount of all outstanding charges for water and sewer service are lien and charge upon the land serviced, and shall be collected in the same manner in which ordinary taxes upon the land are collectible, and with the like remedies.

9. Hydrant Rentals

The Town of Grand Rapids will pay to the utility an annual rental of \$150.00 for each hydrant connected to the system. In addition, the Town of Grand Rapids will pay for water used for fire-fighting.

10. Water Allowance Due to Line Freezing

That in any case where, at the request of the Council, a customer allows water to run continuously for any period of time to prevent the water lines in the water system from freezing, the charge to that customer for the current quarter shall be the average of the billings for the last two previous quarters to the same customer, or to the same premises if the occupant has changed.

11. Damage Meters

If the meter of a consumer is damaged and/or fails to register during any quarter, the amount of water consumption shall be taken to be the average of the two preceding quarters as shown by their respective readings.

12. Thawing

The charge for electric thawing of water service calls shall be \$30.00

13. Temporary Shutoff

If a temporary shutoff is required by any user for the purpose of repairs to the equipment within his premises, or for any other cause, where a service man must visit the premises for such a purpose, a charge of \$25.00 shall be made for such service, said sum to be paid by said user with his next bill for water used.

14. Moving Meter

In any case where a user is moving from one residence to another and requires the service discontinued in such said residence, a final billing will be generated for the customer. A new account is then created and the prepayment is applied to the new location.