

M A N I T O B A) Order No.23/15
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) February 23, 2015

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

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSEDALE
LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF EDEN WATER UTILITY
INTERIM WATER RATES

Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves, on an interim *ex parte* basis, revised water rates applied for by the Rural Municipality of Rosedale for the Eden Water Utility (Utility).

The revised rates are to be effective retroactive to January 1, 2015. The approved rates are shown below.

	Previous (By-law 5-2011)	Proposed 2015
\$/Residential Equivalent Unit	\$295 per annum	\$80/REU/Quarter
Quarterly Service Charge	N/A	\$4.37
Bulk Water Sales	N/A	.60 / 65 gallons
Reconnection Fee	N/A	\$50.00

Schedule of Minimum Quarterly Charges

	<u>Residential Equivalency Units</u>	<u>Quarterly Customer Service Charge</u>	<u>Quarterly Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Total Quarterly Charges</u>
Schools-1 REU per Classroom	1	\$4.37	\$80.00	\$84.37
Machine Shops	1	\$4.37	\$80.00	\$84.37
RM of Rosedale Rink	3	\$4.37	\$240.00	\$244.37
RM of Rosedale Fire Hall	4	\$4.37	\$320.00	\$324.37

Details of rates may be found in the attached Schedule "A".

Background

The Rural Municipality of Rosedale (RM) applied on October 27, 2014, for revised water rates for the Eden Utility. The application was accompanied by a rate study prepared by the RM's Consultant and By-law No. 02-2014 having received 1st reading on October 10, 2014.

The RM has previously billed for Utility services under a Special Service Plan tax levy. The RM has requested that the Board approve utility rates effective January 1, 2015 to allow the change to a quarterly utility billing without loss of the first quarter year's revenue.

When reviewing an application, the Board has at its disposal several approaches. It can hold a public oral hearing at which the applicant can present its case and customers can present their concerns. In other cases, where it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Utility and its customers, the Board may review the application using a paper review process. In some cases, the Board can also establish interim *ex parte* rates, which are rates that are subject to review following a more complete process.

Board Findings

The Board will, on an interim *ex parte* basis, approve revised water rates as applied for by the RM effective January 1, 2015.

The Board makes this interim rate decision to facilitate the change from billing on a Special Service Plan tax levy to a quarterly utility bill.

A Notice of Application was issued on October 30, 2014. There were no stakeholder responses to the Notice.

SCHEDULE "A"

SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES

January 1, 2015

1. Customer Service Charge

The quarterly customer service charge shall be \$4.37

2. Commodity Rates

The commodity rate for all water usage shall be based on one residential equivalency unit and pro-rated in accordance with the Schedule of Minimum Quarterly Charges as detailed in Clause 3 hereafter.

The quarterly water usage rate for one residential equivalent unit shall be \$80.00

3. Schedule of Minimum Quarterly Charges

	Residential Equivalency	Quarterly Customer	Quarterly Commodity	Total Quarterly
	<u>Units</u>	<u>Service Charge</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Charges</u>
Schools-1 REU per Classroom	1	\$4.37	\$80.00	\$84.37
Machine Shops	1	\$4.37	\$80.00	\$84.37
RM of Rosedale Rink	3	\$4.37	\$240.00	\$244.37
RM of Rosedale Firehall	4	\$4.37	\$320.00	\$324.37

4. Bulk Water sales

Bulk water sales shall be charged at the rate of \$.60 per 65 gallons.

5. Service to Customers outside RM of Rosedale limits

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Rosedale may sign agreements with customers for the provision of water and sewer services to properties located outside the boundaries of the LID of Eden. 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 connection to the Utility's mains and installing and maintaining service connections will be paid by the customer.

6. Billings and Penalties

Accounts shall be billed quarterly. A late payment penalty charge of 1 ¼% compounded monthly shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date. The due date will be at least thirty (30) days after the mailing of the bills.

7. Disconnections

The Public Utilities Board has approved the Conditions Precedent to be followed by the Rural 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 are available for inspection at the Rural Municipal office.

8. Reconnection

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

9. Outstanding Bills

Pursuant to Section 252(2) of the Municipal Act, the amount of all outstanding charges for water and sewer services, including fines and penalties, are a 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 like remedies. Where charges and penalties pursuant to this by-law are not paid within sixty (60) days from the date when they were incurred, said charges and penalties shall be added to the taxes on the property and collected in the same manner as other taxes.

10. Cross Connections

No customer or person shall connect, cause to be connected or allow to remain connected any piping, fixture, fitting, container or appliance in a manner which under any circumstances may allow water, wastewater or any harmful liquid or substance to enter the Rural Municipality's water system.

If a condition is found to exist which, in the opinion of the Rural Municipality, is contrary to the aforesaid, the Rural Municipality may either:

- Shut off the service or services; or
- Give notice to the customer to correct the fault at his or her own expense within a specified time period. If the customer fails to comply with such notice the Rural Municipality shall proceed in accordance with clause 1 of this section.