

M A N I T O B A) Order No. 29/15
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) March 3, 2015

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

ORDER VARYING BOARD ORDER No. 24/15
FOR
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. CLEMENTS
GRAND MARAIS SUNSET BAY SEWER UTILITY
INTERIM SEWER RATES

Summary:

The Public Utilities Board (Board) varies, on an interim *ex parte* basis, initial sewer rates for the Grand Marais Sunset Bay Sewer Utility (Utility), in the Rural Municipality (RM) of St. Clements, previously approved in Board Order No. 24/15.

The revised rates are to be effective January 1, 2015, 2016 and 2017. The approved rates are shown below.

| | January 1, 2015 By-law 15- 2014 | Increase/ Decrease | January 1, 2016 | Increase/ Decrease | January 1, 2017 | Increase/D ecrease |
|--|--|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Semi-Annual Service Charge | \$19.93 | New | \$20.62 | 3.46% | \$21.04 | 2.04% |
| Semi-Annual Flat Rate Sewer - Vacant Lots | \$53.64 | New | \$48.92 | -8.80% | \$43.91 | -10.24% |
| Semi-Annual Flat Rate Sewer - Connected Lots | \$71.52 | New | \$65.23 | -8.79% | \$58.54 | -10.26% |
| Total Semi-Annual charges – Vacant Lots | \$73.57 | New | \$69.54 | -5.48% | \$64.95 | -6.60% |
| Total Semi-Annual charges – Connected Lots | \$91.45 | New | \$85.84 | -6.13% | \$79.58 | -7.29% |
| Service Call-Out Fee-Residential /call | \$75.00 | New | \$75.00 | 0.00% | \$75.00 | 0.00% |
| Service Call-Out Fee- Business/Institutions /hour* | \$50.00 | New | \$50.00 | 0.00% | \$50.00 | 0.00% |
| Reconnection Fee | \$30.00 | New | \$30.00 | 0.00% | \$30.00 | 0.00% |
| *After hours charge \$100.00 /hour plus cost of private contractor | | | | | | |

Details of other rates may be found in the attached Schedule
“A”.

Application

On February 24, 2015 the Board issued Order No. 24/15 setting initial sewer rates on an interim *ex parte* basis. The rates were effective January 1, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The RM contacted the Board and advised that the rates in the Order did not match those found in the News Release. A review of Board Order No. 24/15 revealed that the rates found in the table on page 2 and those in the attached Schedule "A" were different. A revised Schedule "A" was prepared and replaced the original.

It was subsequently discovered that the revised rates for Order 24/15 were those contained in the original submission by the RM, and not the amended submission as intended, and that a further error had been made in correcting Schedule "A".

In the interest of clarity and transparency, the Board has issued this Order varying Order No. 24/15 to reflect the accurate decision, rather than issuing a second correction.

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.

The Rural Municipality of St. Clements

SCHEDULE "A"
SEWER RATES (Amended)
BY-LAW NO.15-2014

1. COMMODITY SEWER RATES- SEMI ANNUAL SEWER RATES

| <u>Sewer</u> | <u>Vacant Lots</u> | <u>Connected Lots</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| January 1 st , 2015 | \$53.64 | \$71.52 |
| January 1 st , 2016 | \$48.92 | \$65.23 |
| January 1 st , 2017 | \$43.91 | \$58.54 |

2. FIXED SEMI ANNUAL SEWER CHARGES

| | <u>Sewer Admin. Charges</u> | <u>Sewer Rates</u> | <u>Total Sewer Charges</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 1, 2015: | | | |
| Vacant Lots | \$19.93 | \$53.64 | \$73.57 |
| Connected Lots | \$19.93 | \$71.52 | \$91.45 |
| January 1, 2016: | | | |
| Vacant Lots | \$20.62 | \$48.92 | \$69.54 |
| Connected Lots | \$20.62 | \$65.23 | \$85.84 |
| January 1, 2017: | | | |
| Vacant Lots | \$21.04 | \$43.91 | \$64.95 |
| Connected Lots | \$21.04 | \$58.54 | \$79.58 |

3. SEPTAGE DUMPING

All septic haulers will need to have a municipal business licence and indicate the trucks and their capacities. A Dumpage fee shall be set in 2016, after further review of the utility operations.

4. SERVICE CALL-OUTS

- (a) The Property owners of the residential premises will be charged a set fee of \$75.00 for each and every call out concerning blocked sewer services, maintenance of service, thawing of frozen services, repairs, etc.
- (b) There will be a charge to businesses and/or institutions for a call out rate of \$50.00 per hour, during regular working hours, for municipal staff plus actual costs for any private contractor to clean out, disconnect, reconnect, and/or thaw out sewer services..

After hours call out rate is \$100.00 per hour plus actual cost for a private contractor.

5. BILLINGS TO PENALTIES

Accounts shall be billed semi-annually, and shall be due and payable fourteen days after the date of billing. A late payment charge of 1 ¼% per month shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date and shall compound monthly.

6. DISCONNECTING FOR NON-PAYMENT

- (a) 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 Municipal office.
- (b) In the event that services are disconnected in accordance with the above noted Conditions Precedent, there shall be a termination fee of \$30.00 charged to the consumers account.
- (c) Prior to services being reconnected, payment of all arrears, penalties, disconnection charges, etc. as well as a reconnection fee of \$30.00 must be paid in full or suitable payment arrangements made.

7. OUTSTANDING UTILITY CHARGES

Any account that remains outstanding for more than 30 days may be added to the property taxes in accordance with Subsection 252(2) of *The Municipal Act*. Because water and sewer services may be provided and billed to a tenant, information about accounts outstanding may be shared with the property owner.