

M A N I T O B A) Order No. 92/15
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) September 29, 2015

BEFORE: Régis Gosselin, B ès Arts, MBA, CPA, CGA, Chair
The Hon. Anita Neville, P.C., B.A. (Hons.), Member

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GREY
GREY WATER UTILITY
WATER & WASTEWATER RATES**

Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) rescinds Board Order 84/15, and approves as final water and wastewater rates applied for by the Rural Municipality of Grey Water Utility (Utility).

The rates are to be effective July 1, 2015. The approved rates are shown below.

Commodity Rates per M.G.

	<u>Current Rates (By-law 03-2011)</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2015</u>	<u>Effective January 1, 2016</u>
All Water Consumption	\$10.50	\$11.25	\$11.50
Haywood Sewer Service	\$3.30	\$3.70	\$3.70
Elm Creek Sewer Service	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25
Fannystelle Sewer Service*	\$8.00	\$4.60	\$4.60

*By-law 08-2013

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

Background

The Rural Municipality of Grey (RM) applied on May 23, 2014 for revised water and wastewater rates for the Utility. The application was accompanied by a rate study prepared by the RM and By-law No. 04-2014 having received 1st reading on April 2, 2014.

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.

Application

The RM submitted a rate study on May 23, 2014 seeking water and wastewater rate increases. Supplementary information was provided to the Board as requested by the Board. On July 10, 2015, the RM submitted Council Resolution No. 275/15 requesting that the Board consider an increase to the water rates on an interim *ex parte* basis to help offset the increase in costs of purchasing water.

The Board issued Order No. 84/15 on August 17, 2015 approving water rates of \$11.25 per 1,000 gallons on an interim *ex parte* basis effective July 1, 2015. However, because Order 84/15 did not reflect all the rates sought in the RM's rate study and included incorrect rates, the Board has decided to rescind Order No. 84/15 and issue a new Order that contains correct rates and includes all wastewater rates applied for in the RM's rate study. Furthermore, because the RM has completed a rate study and provided supplementary information to the Board in support of its rate application, the Board has decided to finalize the requested rates.

Board Findings

The Board will rescind Order No. 84/15.

The Board will approve the increase to revised water and wastewater rates. The revised rates are effective July 1, 2015.

Generally, the Board is very hesitant to approve retroactive rate changes; however, the Board has deemed this to be appropriate in this case.

The Board makes this decision due to the urgent need to offset increased costs and because ratepayers were given advance notice of the changes.

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.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Public Utilities Board Order No. 84/15 is HEREBY RESCINDED.
2. The Rural Municipality of Grey Water and Wastewater rates as outlined in Schedule "A", BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROVED to be effective July 1, 2015.
3. The Rural Municipality of Grey file a copy of the water and wastewater By-law, once it has received third and final reading.
4. The Rural Municipality of Grey review its water and sewer rates for adequacy and file a report with the Public Utilities Board, as well as an application for revised rates if required, by no later than April 30, 2018.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$500.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Régis Gosselin, B ès Arts, MBA, CPA, CGA
Chair

"JENNIFER DUBOIS, CPA, CMA"
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order
No. 92/15 issued by The Public
Utilities Board

Acting Secretary

SCHEDULE "A"
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GREY
WATER AND SEWER RATES

Commodity Rates per M.G.

	Effective <u>July 1, 2015</u>	Effective <u>January 1, 2016</u>
All Water Consumption	\$11.25	\$11.50
Haywood Sewer Service	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.70
Elm Creek Sewer Service	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.25
Fannystelle Sewer Service	\$ 4.60	\$ 4.60

Minimum Quarterly Charges:

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

Elm Creek Water & Sewer Customers – Effective July 1, 2015

Meter Size	Gallons Minimum	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
			Water	Sewer	
5/8"	3,000	27.55	33.75	9.75	71.05
3/4"	6,000	27.55	67.50	19.50	114.55
1"	12,000	27.55	135.00	39.00	201.55
1 ½"	30,000	27.55	337.50	97.50	462.55
2"	75,000	27.55	843.75	243.75	1,115.05

Elm Creek Water & Sewer Customers – Effective January 1, 2016

Meter Size	Gallons Minimum	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
			Water	Sewer	
5/8"	3,000	28.15	34.50	9.75	72.40
3/4"	6,000	28.15	69.00	19.50	116.65
1"	12,000	28.15	138.00	39.00	205.15
1 ½"	30,000	28.15	345.00	97.50	470.65
2"	75,000	28.15	862.50	243.75	1,134.40

Haywood Water & Sewer Customers – Effective July 1, 2015

Meter Size	Gallons Minimum	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
			Water	Sewer	
5/8"	3,000	27.55	33.75	11.10	72.40
3/4"	6,000	27.55	67.50	22.20	117.25
1"	12,000	27.55	135.00	44.40	206.95
1 ½"	30,000	27.55	337.50	111.00	476.05
2"	75,000	27.55	843.75	277.50	1,148.80

Haywood Water & Sewer Customers – Effective January 1, 2016

Meter Size	Gallons Minimum	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
			Water	Sewer	
5/8"	3,000	28.15	34.50	11.10	73.75
3/4"	6,000	28.15	69.00	22.20	119.35
1"	12,000	28.15	138.00	44.40	210.55
1 ½"	30,000	28.15	345.00	111.00	484.15
2"	75,000	28.15	862.50	277.50	1,168.15

Fannystelle Water & Sewer Customers – Effective July 1, 2015

Meter Size	Gallons Minimum	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
			Water	Sewer	
5/8"	3,000	27.55	33.75	13.80	75.10
3/4"	6,000	27.55	67.50	27.60	122.65
1"	12,000	27.55	135.00	55.20	217.75
1 ½"	30,000	27.55	337.50	138.00	503.05
2"	75,000	27.55	843.75	345.00	1,216.30

Fannystelle Water & Sewer Customers – Effective January 1, 2016

Meter Size	Gallons Minimum	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
			Water	Sewer	
5/8"	3,000	28.15	34.50	13.80	76.45
3/4"	6,000	28.15	69.00	27.60	124.75
1"	12,000	28.15	138.00	55.20	221.35
1 ½"	30,000	28.15	345.00	138.00	511.15
2"	75,000	28.15	862.50	345.00	1,235.65

Water Only Customers – Effective July 1, 2015

Meter Size	Gallons Minimum	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
			Water	Sewer	
5/8"	3,000	27.55	33.75	-	61.30
3/4"	6,000	27.55	67.50	-	95.05
1"	12,000	27.55	135.00	-	162.55
1 ½"	30,000	27.55	337.50	-	365.05
2"	75,000	27.55	843.75	-	871.30

Water Only Customers – Effective January 1, 2016

Meter Size	Gallons Minimum	Customer Service Charge	Commodity Charges		Total Quarterly Minimum
			Water	Sewer	
5/8"	3,000	28.15	34.50	-	62.65
3/4"	6,000	28.15	69.00	-	97.15
1"	12,000	28.15	138.00	-	166.15
1 ½"	30,000	28.15	345.00	-	373.15
2"	75,000	28.15	862.50	-	890.65

3. **Bulk Sales Rate:**

All water sold in bulk by the municipality shall be billed quarterly and charged at the commodity rate set forth in paragraph 1 hereof, subject to minimum charge based on 1,000 gallons. In addition to the commodity charge bulk customers will be charged a \$27.55 customer service charge per quarter effective July 1, 2015 and a \$28.15 customer service charge per quarter effective January 1, 2016.

4. **Billings and Penalties for Non-payment of Account:**

A late payment charge of 1.25 % per month shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date. The due date will be at least fourteen (14) days after the mailing of the bills.

5. **Non-Payment of Account:**

Service may be disconnected and discontinued immediately and without further notice in the event of non-payment of the account within forty five (45) days after the due date. Any service disconnected due to non-payment of account shall not be reconnected until all arrears, penalties and a reconnection fee of fifty (\$50.00) dollars have been paid.

6. Outstanding Bills:

Where charges and penalties pursuant to this by-law remain unpaid for a period of 30 days or more after the due date, said charges and penalties shall be added to the taxes on the property and collected in the same manner as other taxes as per authority of Section 252(2) of The Municipal Act of Manitoba.

7. Hydrant Rentals:

The municipality shall pay the utility an annual rental fee of \$100.00 for each hydrant connected to the system which includes the cost of water for fire fighting.

8. Meter Accuracy:

Any customer requesting their water meter be tested for accuracy shall be required to make a deposit of \$100.00 with the municipality. If said meter is found to be accurate then the deposit will be retained by the municipality. If the meter is found to be inaccurate then the deposit will be returned to the customer.

9. Service to Customers outside the limits of Rural Municipality of Grey Regional Water System:

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Grey may sign agreements with customers for the provision of water services to properties located outside the legal boundaries of the Rural Municipality of Grey. Such agreements shall provide for payment of the appropriate rates set out in Sections 1 and 2 of 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 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 for connecting to the utility's mains and installing and maintaining service connections shall be paid for by the customer.

10. Estimating Charge:

Customers who do not provide the Rural Municipality of Grey with a quarterly meter reading will be charged a \$25.00 meter reading fee after one free meter reading per customer per calendar year.

11. Lagoon Tipping Fees

Fees will be charged for dumping sewage in the Elm Creek Lagoon, Fannystelle Lagoon and Haywood Lagoon at the rate of \$20.00 per load.