



News Release

July 16, 2008

By Ex Parte Order No. 105/08 dated July 16, 2008, the Public Utilities Board (Board) established interim and revised water and sewer rates for the community of Baldur as set out in By-law 06-2008 of the Rural Municipality of Argyle (RM) read the first time on June 10, 2008.

Existing (since 2004) and new rates are:

\$/1000 gallons	Existing	2008	%	2009	%	2010	%
Water	\$ 8.46	\$14.60	72.6	\$15.00	2.7	\$15.40	2.7
Sewer	<u>\$ 0.90</u>	<u>\$ 1.75</u>	94.4	<u>\$ 1.80</u>	2.9	<u>\$ 1.85</u>	2.8
Total	\$ 9.36	\$16.35	74.7	\$16.80	2.7	\$17.25	2.7
Service Charge	\$ 6.91	\$ 6.95	0.5	\$ 7.00	0.7	\$ 7.10	1.4
Min. Quarterly Bill (5/8" meter) ⁽²⁾	\$34.99	\$56.00	60.0	\$57.40	2.5	\$58.85	2.5
Bulk Water	\$12.91	\$16.80	30.1	\$17.20	2.4	\$17.60	2.3
Sewer Only ⁽¹⁾	\$10.18	\$20.95	105.8	\$21.40	2.1	\$21.90	2.3

⁽¹⁾ assumes use is 8000 gallons per quarter plus service charge.

⁽²⁾ includes 3000 gallons per quarter plus service charge

Acting in the absence of notice to consumers, and despite the large initial increase in rates, the Board acted because the Utility additional revenue requirement was considered by both the RM and the Board to be urgent.

The rate increases should allow the RM to meet the now higher cost of purchasing water from the Manitoba Water Services Board (an 81% increase) and meet its other challenges, primarily related to the sewer system maintenance or replacement.

The RM is to provide notice to its customers of this Order and the rate increases, explain the basis for the increases, and invite utility customers to write the Board to express concerns and/or comment.

Depending on responses to the invitation, the Board will determine if reconsideration is required.

A copy of these Orders may be viewed on the Board's website www.pub.gov.mb.ca, or at the Board's Office.

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