



News Release

June 10, 2009

In Order No. 96/09 dated June 10, 2009, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approved revised water and sewer rates for the City of Steinbach (City).

The revised rates are as proposed by the City in its By-law No. 1860, and will take effect July 1, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Existing (from 2005) and revised rates are:

Commodity Rates (/m ³)	Current	2009	% Increase	2010	% Increase	2011	% Increase
Water	\$ 0.527	\$ 0.86	63.2	\$ 0.89	3.5	\$ 0.92	3.3
Sewer	\$ 0.411	\$ 0.56	36.3	\$ 0.58	3.6	\$ 0.61	5.2
Total	\$ 0.938	\$ 1.42	51.4	\$ 1.47	3.5	\$ 1.53	4.1
Bulk water	\$ 0.715	\$ 1.00	39.8	\$ 1.20	20.0	\$ 1.20	∅
Minimum Quarterly Bill (5/8" meter)⁽¹⁾	\$25.28	\$36.55	44.6	\$37.50	2.6	\$38.20	1.9
Quarterly Service Charge	\$12.50	\$15.25	22.0	\$15.25	∅	\$15.25	∅
Sewer only customers (flat)	\$38.50	\$46.00	19.5	\$47.00	2.2	\$48.00	2.1

⁽¹⁾ Includes 15 cubic metres. Larger meter sizes include larger minimum volumes. Quarterly service charge is included.

The July 2009 rate increases are very large, though required to allow for the funding of required reconstruction projects, and the proposed rates should address the deficiency. The subsequent increases of 2010 and 2011 are closer to the expected annual rate of general inflation, excepting for the bulk water increased established for 2010.

The City considered a smoothing of the three-year proposal, but rejected that alternative because of the implications for the City's long-term plans for the Utility, which would have included expected operating deficits in 2009 and 2010.

Because of the soundness of the City's plans for its Utility, and as no customer appeared at the hearing or expressed concerns by correspondence with the Board ahead of the hearing, the Board accepted the City's application and attendant rate increases, although it recommended that more moderate increases be sought in the future through, if required, more frequent rate applications.

Board Order No. 96/09 with additional details of the application is available for review on the Board's website: www.pub.gov.mb.ca

The Public Utilities Board
 400 – 330 Portage Avenue
 Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4
 Telephone: (204) 945-2638
 Facsimile: (204) 945-2643
 Toll Free: 1-866-854-3698
 Email: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca