



400-330 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MOUNTAIN - BIRCH RIVER UTILITY

October 4, 2012

The Rural Municipality of Mountain (RM) applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised rates for the Birch River Water and Sewer Utility (Utility) as set out in By-law No. 01/12 read the first time on February 8, 2012. A Public Notice was issued on March 20, 2012. Due to the public response to the Notice, the Board will convene a Public Hearing.

A Public Hearing will be held: **Wednesday, November 14, 2012**  
Birch River Legion Hall  
211 Drury Avenue  
Birch River, Manitoba  
Doors open at **6:30 p.m.** Meeting to begin at **7:00 p.m.**

Due to an urgent need for increased revenues, the Board approved new rates effective July 1, 2012 on an interim *ex parte* basis. Rates had last been amended in 2006 and the Utility has been experiencing recurring deficits.

In reviewing the submission, the Board was made aware that deficits for 2009, 2010 and 2011 totaled \$81,280. Recovery of this deficit will form part of the Hearing. The RM has requested that recovery be spread over 5 years and that it be achieved through a special taxation levy. The Board will hear opinions as to whether this should be recovered from all taxpayers or from Utility customers. If the latter method is chosen, the quarterly rate rider on the Utility bill would be approximately \$28.50 from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2017.

Further, and subsequent to their initial rate proposal, the RM submitted a revision to the requested rates. Previous, interim and newly proposed rates are shown below.

Previous	REU's*	Service Charge	Water Charge	Sewer Charge	Quarterly Minimum
Residence	1	\$5.50	\$58.52		\$64.02
Commercial	2	\$5.50	\$117.04		\$122.54
Arena	3	\$5.50	\$175.56		\$181.06
School	10	\$5.50	\$585.20		\$590.70
Bulk water per 1000 gallons			\$10.00		
Hydrant rental (annual)			\$100.00		

\* Residential equivalent units

<b>Interim approval- July 2012</b>	<b>REU's</b>	<b>Service Charge</b>	<b>Water Charge</b>	<b>Sewer Charge</b>	<b>Quarterly Minimum</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>
Residence (water only)	1	\$26.74	\$97.20		\$123.94	94%
Residence	1	\$26.74	\$97.20	\$63.92	\$187.86	193%
Commercial (water only)	2	\$26.74	\$194.40		\$221.14	80%
Commercial	2	\$26.74	\$194.40	\$127.84	\$348.98	185%
Arena	3	\$26.74	\$291.60	\$191.76	\$510.10	182%
School	10	\$26.74	\$972.00	\$639.20	\$1,637.94	177%
Bulk water per 1000 gallons			\$12.00			20%
Hydrant rental (annual)			\$100.00			0%

<b>Revised Proposal (July 2012)</b>	<b>REU's</b>	<b>Service Charge</b>	<b>Water Charge</b>	<b>Sewer Charge</b>	<b>Quarterly Minimum</b>	<b>Increase/ Decrease</b>
Residence (water only)	1	\$29.76	\$70.92		\$100.68	57%
Residence	1	\$29.76	\$70.92	\$47.06	\$147.74	131%
Commercial (water only)	2	\$29.76	\$141.84		\$171.60	40%
Commercial	2	\$29.76	\$141.84	\$94.12	\$265.72	117%
Arena	3	\$29.76	\$212.76	\$141.18	\$383.70	112%
School	10	\$29.76	\$709.20	\$470.60	\$1,209.56	105%
Bulk water per 1000 gallons			\$12.00			20%
Hydrant rental (annual)			\$100.00			0%

Questions concerning the application should be addressed to the municipal administration. Details of the RM's application are available for review at the RM office.

Interested parties should make every effort to attend the hearing and make their views known to the Board. Any person wishing to make written representations to the Board should write

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Or, send an email to [publicutilities@gov.mb.ca](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca), on or before **October 15, 2012**.

Interested parties wishing to provide evidence should apply to the Board for Intervener status using the form on the Board's website at [http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca/pdf/pandp/rules\\_pandp\\_fill\\_mar07.pdf](http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca/pdf/pandp/rules_pandp_fill_mar07.pdf) . Applications for intervener status must be copied to the applicant as well as the Board. Intervener Applications should be received on or before **October 15, 2012**

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accord with the Board's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at [www.pub.gov.mb.ca](http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca).

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Public Utilities Board