

**Order No. 104/22**

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT  
AMALGAMATION OF ILE DES CHENES, RITCHOT RURAL WATER, ST. ADOLPHE  
AND STE. AGATHE WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES  
REVISED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES  
2018 OPERATING DEFICITS**

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**September 22, 2022**

**BEFORE: Irene Hamilton, K.C., Panel Chair  
Marilyn Kapitany, B.Sc. (Hon), M. Sc., Panel Member**

## Table of Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background .....</b>	<b>5</b>
	Water Supply/Distribution .....	6
	Wastewater Collection and Treatment.....	6
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Board Methodology.....</b>	<b>7</b>
	Review Process .....	7
	Contingency Allowance and Utility Reserves.....	7
	Working Capital .....	7
	Operating Deficits .....	7
	Cost Allocation Methodology .....	8
	Unaccounted for Water .....	8
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Application.....</b>	<b>8</b>
	Water Treatment Plant.....	10
	Lagoon tipping fees .....	11
	Contingency Allowance and Utility Reserves.....	11
	Operating Deficits .....	12
	Working Capital .....	12
	Cost Allocation Methodology .....	13
	Unaccounted for Water .....	13

**5.0 Board Findings ..... 13**  
**6.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT: ..... 15**

## 1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Manitoba Public Utilities Board (Board) grants approval of the Rural Municipality of Ritchot's (RM) application to amalgamate the Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe, Ile des Chenes water and wastewater utilities and the Ritchot Rural water utility to form the Ritchot Water and Wastewater Utility (Amalgamated Utility), effective January 1, 2023. The Board grants approval for the 2018 operating deficits and method of recovery.

The Board grants approval for revised water and wastewater rates for the newly formed Amalgamated Utility, effective January 1, 2023.

The revised rates are below:

	January 1, 2023	January 1, 2024	January 1, 2025
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 9.53	\$ 10.06	\$ 10.58
Water	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.82	\$ 1.95
Wastewater	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.14
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$ 42.43	\$ 48.14	\$ 53.84
Bulk Water Sales per cubic meter	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Wholesale water - Ste. Agathe (over 227 cubic meters)	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.65	\$ -
Wholesale water - Ile des Chenes/St. Adolphe & Rural Water (over 91 cubic meters)	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.71	\$ -
Wastewater Only Customer (per REU)**	\$ 112.90	\$ 151.65	\$ 192.10
Wastewater Only Customers - Annual Total ***	\$ 122.43	\$ 161.71	\$ 202.68
Lagoon Tipping Fee - septic trucks 9 cubic meters or less****	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Lagoon Tipping Fee - septic trucks over 9 cubic meters****	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00

\*based on 14m<sup>3</sup> (cubic meters)

\*\*REU – residential equivalency unit – see Background section

\*\*\*wastewater only customers are charged a single quarterly service charge for the annual billing

\*\*\*\*based on truck capacity

Details of other rates can be found in Schedule A.

The reasons for the Board's decisions are under Board Findings.

## 2.0 Background

The Rural Municipality of Ritchot operates the Ste. Agathe Water and Wastewater Utility, St. Adolphe Water and Wastewater Utility, Ile des Chenes Water and Wastewater Utility and the Ritchot Rural Water utility.

Current utility rates in these four utilities were last approved 15 to 17 years ago.

The Ste. Agathe Utility has a 2-step water rate with volumes consumed over 50,000 gallons a quarter charged at the lower rate and a 1-step wastewater rate, as approved in Board Order No. 100/06.

The St. Adolphe Utility has a 2-step water rate with volumes consumed over 20,000 gallons a quarter charged at the lower rate, as approved in Board Order No. 24/05. St. Adolphe also supplies wastewater services to all water customers; however, wastewater rates are set on a Residential Equivalency Unit (REU) basis as approved by Board Order No. 150/03.

One REU is the estimate of the volume of wastewater produced by the average single-family residence. The Utility allocates units to non-residential customers based on estimated consumption, as compared with a residence. REUs are used in communities with unmetered or partially unmetered distribution and collection systems, where information regarding actual consumption is unavailable.

The Ile des Chenes Utility has a 2-step water rate with volumes consumed over 20,000 gallons a quarter charged at the lower rate, as approved in Board Order No. 24/05. Ile des Chenes also supplies wastewater services to all water customers; however, wastewater rates are set on an REU basis as approved by Board Order No. 151/03.

The Rural Utility has a 2-step water rate with volumes consumed over 20,000 gallons a quarter charged at the lower rate, as approved in Board Order No. 24/05. The Rural Utility also has some wastewater customers in the Grande Pointe area connected to Ile des

Chenes wastewater lagoon. The RM charges these customers the Ile des Chenes wastewater REU rates.

The Utility provides wastewater and/or water service to 1,943 connections throughout the RM.

### **Water Supply/Distribution**

The treated water for the four utilities is supplied by one water treatment plant owned by the RM and included in the Municipality's General Operating Fund. All four utilities charged the same 1<sup>st</sup>-step water rate prior to amalgamation.

The Ritchot water treatment plant receives water from four wells. The majority of the water distribution lines servicing the four utilities are high density polyethylene pipe with some polyvinyl chloride pipe in Ste. Agathe and some rural areas. Water treatment consists of chlorine addition for oxidation and disinfection before filtration by five manganese greensand filters for iron removal. There is a treated water reservoir beneath the water treatment plant and four additional reservoirs in Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe, Ile des Chenes and Grande Pointe.

### **Wastewater Collection and Treatment**

The wastewater systems are primarily serviced by gravity wastewater lines in Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe and Ile des Chenes, and each have separate wastewater lagoons.

### **3.0 Board Methodology**

#### **Review Process**

When reviewing an application, the Board has at its disposal two approaches, a paper review process or a public hearing. After the publication of the Notice of Application, the Board considers the application and responses, if any, and determines which method of review is most appropriate. Whenever reasonable, the Board can review the application using a paper review process, which saves the cost of a public hearing.

Where there is an urgent need for initial or revised rates and the Board determines it to be in the best interest of all parties, the Board may establish interim *ex parte* rates.

#### **Contingency Allowance and Utility Reserves**

The Board's Water and Wastewater Rate Application Guidelines recommend an annual contingency allowance equal to 10% of the variable operating costs.

#### **Working Capital**

Board Order No. 93/09 established utilities should maintain a minimum working capital surplus, in an amount equal to 20% of annual expenses. The working capital surplus is the Utility fund balance, excluding any capital-related items plus Utility reserves.

#### **Operating Deficits**

By law, Manitoba utilities are not allowed to incur deficits. In the event that a deficit does occur, the Utility is required by *The Municipal Act* to obtain Board approval for both the

deficit and recovery methodology. The Board is therefore duty bound to approve reasonable rates based on reasonable expense projections.

### **Cost Allocation Methodology**

The Board requires all municipalities to review the costs shared between the general operations of the municipality and the Utility, and to allocate appropriate and reasonable costs to the Utility, based on a policy known as a Cost Allocation Methodology. This policy must be submitted to the Board for approval and cannot be changed without approval by the Board. The Board's requirements regarding cost allocation methodologies can be found in Board Order No. 93/09.

### **Unaccounted for Water**

Water losses may be caused by such events as distribution line losses, service leaks, water used for fire fighting or line flushing, and under-registration of water meters. The Board Guidelines require utilities to compare the volume of water produced or purchased against the volume of water sold, to determine the percentage of unaccounted for water. Unaccounted for water volumes of approximately 10% are considered industry standard.

The Board expects any utility experiencing a greater volume of unaccounted for water to provide an explanation and plan to address the water losses.

## **4.0 Application**

On July 23, 2021 the Board received the RM's application to amalgamate the RM of Ritchot's four utilities, and revise the water and wastewater rates for the newly formed Ritchot Water and Wastewater Utility. The application was accompanied by a rate study completed by the RM's consultant and By-law 10-2021, read for the first time on July 21,



2021. The initial application requested an implementation date of July 1, 2022. The RM subsequently contacted the Board to request implementation be delayed to January 1, 2023 due to the flooding experienced in the spring of 2022.

On August 19, 2021 the Board received the RM's application for approval of 2018 operating deficits for the Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe and Ile des Chenes utilities, in the amounts of \$12,008, \$37,083 and \$21,362 respectively. The RM requested the deficits be recovered from the individual utility surplus accounts.

The Board issued a Public Notice of Application on October 19, 2021 affording customers the opportunity to comment to both the Board and the RM with respect to the proposed rate changes. The Board received a number of responses to the Notice, which were shared with the RM. The RM responded to each of the stakeholder responses, providing a copy of the response to the Board. The RM proposed to amalgamate its four existing utilities into a single utility. The RM stated that since all utilities were charging the same 1<sup>st</sup>-step water rate and similar wastewater rates there would be minimal impact on existing utility rates to combine the utilities. The RM indicated it anticipated increased efficiencies and improved customer service through a single utility.

Customers in Ste. Agathe receive water and wastewater services and pay for both on a metered basis. Customers in St. Adolphe, Ile des Chenes and some rural customers in Grande Pointe receive water and wastewater services. These customers have been paying for water services on a metered basis; however, wastewater services were being charged on an REU basis, despite the utility having consumption information for these customers. The RM's application proposed to change these customers from flat rate REU charges to charging wastewater rates based on actual consumption. The RM would then have a mobile home park with 100 units as its only remaining REU customer.

The rates were calculated using the following combined revenue requirement projections:

<b>General Expenses</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Administration (building, office, staff, etc)	80,647	82,260	83,906
<b>Total expenses general</b>	<b>80,647</b>	<b>82,260</b>	<b>83,906</b>
Penalties	1,700	1,700	1,700
<b>Total revenue general</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>
<b>Net revenue requirement - general</b>	<b>78,947</b>	<b>80,560</b>	<b>82,206</b>
<b>Water Expenses</b>			
Purification and treatment	497,952	507,911	518,069
Transmission and distribution	116,045	118,366	120,733
Amortization	180,147	666,318	665,843
Interest on long term debt	3,440		
Reserves	10,000	10,000	10,000
Contingency			59,930
<b>Total expenses water</b>	<b>807,584</b>	<b>1,302,595</b>	<b>1,374,575</b>
Hydrant rentals	8,200	22,000	22,000
Bulk water fees	7,000	9,000	9,000
Connection fee	8,500	8,500	8,500
Amortization of capital grants - water	157,909	393,244	393,244
<b>Total revenue water</b>	<b>181,609</b>	<b>432,744</b>	<b>432,744</b>
<b>Net revenue requirement - water</b>	<b>625,975</b>	<b>869,851</b>	<b>941,831</b>
<b>Wastewater Expenses</b>			
Wastewater collection system	84,538	86,228	87,953
Lift station costs	65,078	66,380	67,707
Wastewater treatment and disposal	170,203	173,607	177,080
Amortization	357,487	406,237	414,244
Reserves	10,000	10,000	10,000
Contingency			31,870
<b>Total expenses wastewater</b>	<b>687,306</b>	<b>742,452</b>	<b>788,854</b>
Amortization of capital grants - wastewater	235,719	260,094	267,594
<b>Total revenue wastewater</b>	<b>235,719</b>	<b>260,094</b>	<b>267,594</b>
<b>Net revenue requirement - wastewater</b>	<b>451,587</b>	<b>482,358</b>	<b>521,260</b>

## Water Treatment Plant

The RM owns a water treatment plant (WTP) that produces treated water for the entire RM. The plant and related assets are currently part of the RM's General Operating Fund. Each Utility is charged a water purchase rate based on production costs and annual surpluses are transferred to a Water Services Reserve, which is also part of the General Operating Fund.

The RM advises this arrangement evolved when the Manitoba Water Services Board turned over ownership of the WTP to the RM. Water production costs are calculated based on Manitoba accounting rules for municipalities for General Operating Fund. The water production charges have not included amortization expenses as required by Public Sector Accounting Standards for utility rate setting purposes.

The RM proposes with the amalgamation of the four utilities, the Nominal Surplus and Tangible Capital Assets of Ritchot Water Services will be transferred from General Operating Fund to the Amalgamated Utility.

### **Lagoon tipping fees**

The RM is not currently charging a tipping fee at the wastewater lagoons. After reviewing tipping fee rates at other municipal lagoons, a tipping fee rate of \$30 per load for septic trucks with capacity up to nine cubic meters and \$60 per load for septic trucks with capacity over nine cubic meters is proposed.

### **Contingency Allowance and Utility Reserves**

The RM has included in the projections a contingency allowance of 10% of net rate requirements, less amortization and interest on long-term debt. There is no provision for transfer to Utility Reserve from rates proposed.

The RM, through By-Law 2013-05 created a Municipal Utility Reserve Fund to be funded every year by a specified percentage of royalty income. Currently 25% of royalty revenue is transferred to the reserve.

## Operating Deficits

The RM has applied for approval for the following operating deficits:

	St. Adolphe	Ste. Agathe	Ile des Chenes
2018 Operating Deficit	(\$122,254)	(\$41,354)	(\$65,205)
Amortization of Capital Grants - Water	\$76,336	\$9,951	\$32,407
Amortization of Capital Grants - Wastewater	\$8,835	\$19,395	\$11,436
Deficit - calculated for regulatory purposes	(\$37,083)	(\$12,008)	(\$21,362)

The RM has proposed that the operating deficits be recovered from the individual Utility Accumulated Surplus accounts.

## Working Capital

As per the 2020 audited financial statements, the Working Capital Surplus at December 31, 2020 was:

	St. Adolphe	Ste. Agathe	Ile des Chenes	Rural	Combined
Accumulated Fund Surplus	\$9,146,965	\$2,353,358	\$3,811,622	\$2,240,096	\$17,552,041
Deduct tangible capital assets	\$8,735,487	\$2,070,089	\$3,498,218	\$2,130,989	\$16,434,783
Add long term debt	\$45,362	\$0	\$53,343		\$98,705
Add utility reserves	\$50,321	\$408,622	\$228,128	\$275,691	\$962,762
<b>Equals Working Capital Surplus</b>	<b>\$507,161</b>	<b>\$691,891</b>	<b>\$594,875</b>	<b>\$384,798</b>	<b>\$2,178,725</b>
Total expenses	\$457,782	\$343,078	\$338,433	\$125,346	\$1,264,639
20% of total expenses (target)	\$91,556	\$68,616	\$67,687	\$25,069	\$252,928

The individual utilities remain compliant with the Board's minimum target for working capital, even after the recovery of the outstanding operating deficits.

## Cost Allocation Methodology

The RM would like to revise its cost methodology from a flat \$2,500 per year, per utility to 6% of General Government Services less Assessment and Grants expenses. The RM proposes this will more accurately reflect estimated administration costs to manage the Amalgamated Utility.

## Unaccounted for Water

The RM's rate study advised unaccounted for water was between 3% of water produced in 2020. The majority of the water lines are less than 25 years old and are plastic pipe.

## 5.0 Board Findings

The Board has reviewed the application and revenue projections presented by the RM and finds the projections to be reasonable. The Board grants approval of the proposed water and wastewater rates, effective January 1, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

The Board grants approval of the 2018 operating deficits, recovered from the working capital surplus. The Board grants approval of the revised Cost Allocation Methodology as applied for by the RM.

The Board grants approval to amalgamate the Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe, Ile des Chenes water and wastewater utilities and the Ritchot Rural water utility to form the Ritchot Water and Wastewater Utility, effective January 1, 2023. The RM's proposal to transfer the existing capital from the General Fund to the new Amalgamated Utility aligns with the Board's methodology.

Whenever reasonable, the Board will review the application using a paper review process, which saves the cost of a public hearing process. The Board reviewed the stakeholder comments and questions, and the RM's subsequent replies and finds the RM has

adequately addressed the outstanding issues. The Board has chosen to review this application using a paper review process.

Many of the responses to the Notice of Application were related to the transition of wastewater rates from REUs to a rate based on actual consumption. The Board is aware this may possibly result in significant increases for some customers; however, this methodology aligns with the user-pay principle. The Board strongly recommends those utilities with unmetered systems consider installing meters to allow for billing based on consumption. The practice of billing metered customers using a flat rate is contradictory to that recommendation and the Board supports the RM in using consumption wherever possible.

The Board directs the RM to review its water and wastewater rates for adequacy and file a report with the Board, or make application for revised rates if required, on or before December 31, 2026. The RM is to amend its Utility rate by-law to reflect the decisions in this Order, and submit a copy to the Board once it has received third and final reading. The RM is to provide notice of the decisions found in this Order to its customers as soon as possible.

The Board reminds the RM regular reviews are important for a financially sound utility and encourages the RM to review Board Order No. 86/17 for future rate applications. The Order outlines the Simplified Rate Application Process for municipally owned public utilities. If, after its rate review, the RM finds it meets the designated criteria for a simplified rate application, it should apply for future rates using the Simplified Rate Application Process.

## 6.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Amalgamation of the Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe, Ile des Chenes water and wastewater utilities and the Ritchot Rural water utility to form the Ritchot Water and Wastewater Utility BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED effective January 1, 2023.
2. The revised water and wastewater rates for the Rural Municipality of Ritchot Water and Wastewater Utility, BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROVED in accordance with the attached Schedule A, effective January 1, 2023, 2024 and 2025.
3. The Cost Allocation Methodology for shared services as submitted by the Rural Municipality of Ritchot Water and Wastewater Utility BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED.
4. The operating deficits incurred in 2018 in the Rural Municipality of Ritchot, Ste. Agathe (\$12,008), St. Adolphe (\$37,083), and Ile des Chenes (\$21,362) Water and Wastewater Utilities BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROVED to be recovered from the individual Utility Accumulated Surplus.
5. The Rural Municipality of Ritchot amend its Utility rate By-law to reflect the decisions in this Order, and submit a copy to the Public Utilities Board once it has received third and final reading.
6. The Rural Municipality of Ritchot is to provide notice of the decisions found in this Order to its customers as soon as possible.
7. The Rural Municipality of Ritchot review its Utility rates for adequacy and file a report with the Public Utilities Board, as well as an application for revised rates if applicable, on or before December 31, 2026.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$500.00

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. The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"Irene Hamilton, K.C."

Panel Chair

"Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA"

Assistant Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 104/22  
issued by The Public Utilities Board



Assistant Associate Secretary



**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF RITCHOT**  
**RITCHOT WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY**  
**SCHEDULE "A" - UTILITY RATES BY-LAW NO. \_\_\_\_\_**  
**SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES**

**1. Schedule of Quarterly Service Charge & Commodity Rates** **January 1, 2023**

Quarterly Service Charge	\$9.53			
		<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>
Domestic, all customers, Cubic Meters	\$1.68	\$.67		\$2.35
Wholesale – Ste. Agathe – Over 227 Cubic Meters	\$1.36	\$.67		\$2.03
Wholesale – Ile des Chenes, St. Adolphe & Rural – Over 91 Cubic Meters	\$1.46	\$.67		\$2.13

**2. Minimum Charges per Quarter**

Notwithstanding the rates set forth in paragraph 1, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges per quarter set out below, which includes the water allowance as listed.

**a) Water & Wastewater Customers**

	Group Capacity	Water Included	Customer Service	Water Commodity	Wastewater Charge	Water & Wastewater Commodity	Total
Quarterly	Meter Size	Ratio	Cubic Meters	Charge	Charge	Charge	Minimum
<u>All Customers</u>							
	5/8"	1	14	\$9.53	\$23.52	\$9.38	\$42.43
	3/4"	2	28	\$9.53	\$47.04	\$18.76	\$75.33
	1"	4	56	\$9.53	\$94.08	\$37.52	\$141.13
<u>St. Agathe Customers</u>							
	1 1/2"	10	140	\$9.53	\$235.20	\$93.80	\$338.53
	2"	25	340	\$9.53	\$535.04	\$227.80	\$772.37
	3"	45	615	\$9.53	\$909.04	\$412.05	\$1,330.62
	4"	90	1,230	\$9.53	\$1,745.44	\$824.10	\$2,579.07

Ste. Adolphe, Ile des Chenes, Rural Customers

1 ½"	10	140	\$9.53	\$224.42	\$93.80	\$327.75
2"	25	340	\$9.53	\$516.42	\$227.80	\$753.75
3"	45	615	\$9.53	\$917.92	\$412.05	\$1,339.50
4"	90	1,230	\$9.53	\$1,815.82	\$824.10	\$2,649.45

**b) Water Only Customers**

The minimum charge will be the same for each meter size as shown above but the Wastewater Commodity Charge will be excluded.

**c) Viterra Canola Plant**

Notwithstanding the Wastewater Commodity rates and charges set forth above, the Ste. Agathe Viterra Canola Plant shall be charged for wastewater service at the following rate:

Wastewater Rate calculation – at the wastewater rates set forth above to be applied to 85% of the actual water consumption of the plant.

**3. Wastewater Only Customers – Residential Equivalency Units**

Wastewater only charges shall be based on one residential equivalency unit and shall be billed annually.

<u>Customer</u>	<u>Residential Equivalency Units</u>	<u>Customer Service Charge</u>	<u>Wastewater Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Total Annual Charge</u>
Residential	Single family dwelling	\$9.53	\$112.90	\$122.43
Residential	Mobile home	\$9.53	\$112.90	\$122.43

**4. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Utility will be charged at the rate of \$2.00 per cubic meter.

**5. Wastewater Lagoon Septic Truck Tipping Fees**

To access and dump at the Wastewater Lagoon, per load based on truck capacity:

Septic trucks with capacity up to 9 cubic meters	\$30.00
Septic trucks with capacity over 9 cubic meters	\$60.00

1. **Schedule of Quarterly Service Charge & Commodity Rates**

**January 1, 2024**

Quarterly Service Charge	\$10.06			
		<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>
Domestic, all customers, Cubic Meters	\$1.82	\$0.90		\$2.72
Wholesale – Ste. Agathe– Over 227 Cubic Meters	\$1.65	\$0.90		\$2.55
Wholesale – Ile des Chenes, St. Adolphe & Rural – Over 91 Cubic Meters	\$1.71	\$0.90		\$2.61

2. **Minimum Charges per Quarter**

Notwithstanding the rates set forth in paragraph 1, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges per quarter set out below, which includes the water allowance as listed.

a) **Water & Wastewater Customers**

	Group Capacity	Water Included	Customer Service	Water Commodity Charge	Wastewater Charge	Water & Wastewater Commodity Charge	Total Minimum
<u>Quarterly</u>							
<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Cubic Meters</u>		<u>Charge</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Minimum</u>
<u>All Customers</u>							
5/8"	1	14	\$10.06	\$25.48	\$12.60	\$48.14	
3/4"	2	28	\$10.06	\$50.96	\$25.20	\$86.22	
1"	4	56	\$10.06	\$101.92	\$50.40	\$162.38	
<u>St. Agathe Customers</u>							
1 1/2"	10	140	\$10.06	\$254.80	\$126.00	\$390.86	
2"	25	340	\$10.06	\$599.59	\$306.00	\$915.65	
3"	45	615	\$10.06	\$1,053.34	\$553.50	\$1,616.90	
4"	90	1,230	\$10.06	\$2,068.09	\$1,107.00	\$3,185.15	
<u>St. Adolphe, Ile des Chenes, Rural Customers</u>							
1 1/2"	10	140	\$10.06	\$249.41	\$126.00	\$385.47	
2"	25	340	\$10.06	\$591.41	\$306.00	\$907.47	
3"	45	615	\$10.06	\$1,061.66	\$553.50	\$1,625.22	
4"	90	1,230	\$10.06	\$2,113.31	\$1,107.00	\$3,230.37	

**b) Water Only Customers**

The minimum charge will be the same for each meter size as shown above but the Wastewater Commodity Charge will be excluded.

**c) Viterra Canola Plant**

Notwithstanding the Wastewater Commodity rates and charges set forth above, the Ste. Agathe Viterra Canola Plant shall be charged for wastewater service at the following rate:

Wastewater Rate calculation – at the wastewater rates set forth above to be applied to 85% of the actual water consumption of the plant.

**3. Wastewater Only Customers – Residential Equivalency Units**

Wastewater only charges shall be based on one residential equivalency unit and shall be billed annually.

<u>Customer</u>	<u>Residential Equivalency Units</u>	<u>Customer Service Charge</u>	<u>Wastewater Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Total Annual Charge</u>
Residential	Single family dwelling	\$10.06	\$151.65	\$161.71
Residential	Mobile home	\$10.06	\$151.65	\$161.71

**4. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Utility will be charged at the rate of \$2.00 per cubic meter.

**5. Wastewater Lagoon Septic Truck Tipping Fees**

To access and dump at the Wastewater Lagoon, per load based on truck capacity:

Septic trucks with capacity up to 9 cubic meters	\$30.00
Septic trucks with capacity over 9 cubic meters	\$60.00

1. **Schedule of Quarterly Service Charge & Commodity Rates**

**January 1, 2025**

Quarterly Service Charge \$10.58

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>
All customers, all volumes, Cubic Meters	\$1.95	\$1.14	\$3.09

2. **Minimum Charges per Quarter**

Notwithstanding the rates set forth in paragraph 1, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges per quarter set out below, which includes the water allowance as listed.

a) **Water & Wastewater Customers**

Quarterly	Group Capacity	Water Included	Customer Service	Water Commodity Charge	Wastewater Charge	Water & Wastewater Commodity Charge	Total Minimum
<u>All Customers</u>							
5/8"	1	14	\$10.58	\$27.30	\$15.96	\$53.84	
¾"	2	28	\$10.58	\$54.60	\$31.92	\$97.10	
1"	4	56	\$10.58	\$109.20	\$63.84	\$183.62	
1 ½"	10	140	\$10.58	\$273.00	\$159.60	\$443.18	
2"	25	340	\$10.58	\$663.00	\$387.60	\$1,061.18	
3"	45	615	\$10.58	\$1,199.25	\$701.10	\$1,910.93	
4"	90	1,230	\$10.58	\$2,398.50	\$1,402.20	\$3,811.28	

b) **Water Only Customers**

The minimum charge will be the same for each meter size as shown above but the Wastewater Commodity Charge will be excluded.

c) **Viterra Canola Plant**

Notwithstanding the Wastewater Commodity rates and charges set forth above, the Ste. Agathe Viterra Canola Plant shall be charged for wastewater service at the following rate:

Wastewater Rate calculation – at the wastewater rates set forth above to be applied to 85% of the actual water consumption of the plant.

**3. Wastewater Only Customers – Residential Equivalency Units**

Wastewater only charges shall be based on one residential equivalency unit and shall be billed annually.

<u>Customer</u>	<u>Residential Equivalency Units</u>	<u>Customer Service Charge</u>	<u>Wastewater Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Total Annual Charge</u>
Residential	Single family dwelling	\$10.58	\$192.10	\$202.68
Residential	Mobile home	\$10.58	\$192.10	\$202.68

**4. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Utility will be charged at the rate of \$2.00 per cubic meter.

**5. Wastewater Lagoon Septic Truck Tipping Fees**

To access and dump at the Wastewater Lagoon, per load based on truck capacity:

Septic trucks with capacity up to 9 cubic meters	\$30.00
Septic trucks with capacity over 9 cubic meters	\$60.00

**The following clauses take effect January 1, 2023:**

3. Service To Customers Outside Utility's Limits

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Ritchot may sign Agreements with customers for the provision of water and wastewater services to properties located outside the boundaries of the Municipality. Such Agreements shall provide for payment of the appropriate rates set out in the 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 the 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 Rural Municipality of Ritchot boundaries. In addition, all costs of connecting to the Utility's mains, and installing and maintaining service connections, will be paid by the customer.

4. Billings And Penalties

Accounts shall be billed quarterly based on water used except for wastewater only services which shall be billed annually based on residential equivalency units. A late payment penalty charge of 1 ¼% compounded monthly 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. Disconnection

The Public Utilities Board has approved the Conditions Precedent to be followed by the Municipality with respect to 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 Municipality's office.

6. Reconnection

Any service disconnected, whether due to non-payment of account or for any other reason mutually agreed to by the customer and the Municipality (ie. repairs necessitated by negligence of the customer, changes in tenant, vacancy for an extended period of time, etc.) shall not be reconnected until all arrears and penalties and a reconnection fee of \$50.00 have been paid.

7. Outstanding Bills

Pursuant to Section 252(2) of The *Municipal Act*, the amount of all outstanding charges for water and wastewater services are a lien and charge upon the land serviced and shall be collected in the same manner in which ordinary taxes upon the land are collectible, and with like remedies.

8. Hydrant Charges

The Rural Municipality of Ritchot, or any other hydrant owner, will pay to the Utility an annual fee of \$125.00 for each hydrant connected to the system which shall include the cost of water used for firefighting.

9. Wastewater Surcharges

a) There may be levied annually, in addition to the rates set forth above, a special surcharge on sewage having a Biochemical Oxygen Demand in excess of 300 parts per million, to be set by Resolution of Council.

b) A special surcharge for substances requiring special treatment shall be charged based on the actual costs of treatment required for the particular sewage or industrial waste.

10. Meter Testing

That in any case where a utility customer requests that a meter be tested for accuracy, the customer will provide the Municipality with a deposit of \$200. The Municipality will then remove the subject meter and send it to an independent lab for testing. If the meter is found to be faulty, all costs associated with the testing process will be borne by the Municipality and the deposit will be refunded to the customer and the customer's account will be adjusted for the preceding six (6) months. If the meter is found to be in proper working order, all costs associated with the testing process will be borne by the customer and the customer will be billed or refunded any balance owing.

11. Cross Connections

No customer or person shall connect, cause to be connected or allow to remain connected any piping, fixture, fitting, container or appliance in a manner which under any circumstances may allow water, wastewater or any harmful liquid or substance to enter the Municipality's water system.

If a condition is found to exist which, in the opinion of the Municipality, is contrary to the aforesaid, the Municipality may either:

Shut off the service or services; or

Give notice to the customer to correct the fault at his or her own expense within a specified time period.

12. Conditions of Disrepair

In the event that there are conditions of disrepair in the Wastewater and water works on a property that detrimentally affects the system as a whole and, upon the failure of the owner of the property to correct the condition within a reasonable time, the Municipality, or its agents, may enter the property, effect repairs and charge the cost thereof against the subject property as ordinary taxes.



13. Authorization For Officer To Enter Upon Premises

The Manager of Operations, or other employee authorized by the Municipality in the absence of the Manager of Operations, shall be authorized to enter upon any premise for the purpose of:

Affixing to any pipe, wire or apparatus connected with any such utility, a meter or any other measuring or testing device; or taking readings from, repairing, inspecting or removing any meter or apparatus belonging to the Municipality.