

**Order No. 137/23**

**CITY OF STEINBACH  
WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY  
WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES**

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**December 8, 2023**

BEFORE: Irene Hamilton, K.C., Panel Chair  
Shawn McCutcheon, Panel Member

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Manitoba Public Utilities Board (Board) grants approval of the City of Steinbach (City) Water and Wastewater Utility's (Utility) application for revised water and wastewater rates.

The revised rates are below:

	2024	2025	2026	2027
Quarterly service charge	\$ 20.05	\$ 20.44	\$ 20.84	\$ 21.25
Water (per cubic meter)	\$ 1.08	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.14
Wastewater (per cubic meter)	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.95	\$ 1.01
Minimum quarterly charge*	\$ 49.15	\$ 50.44	\$ 51.89	\$ 53.50
Wastewater only customers - without meters - flat rate per quarter**	\$ 58.75	\$ 60.94	\$ 63.59	\$ 66.70
Bulk water fee(per cubic meter)***	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.50
Hydrant rental fee (annual)	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$155.00	\$155.00
Hauled sewage rate (per cubic meter)	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.80	\$ 4.04

\*based on 14m<sup>3</sup>

\*\*based on 45m<sup>3</sup> plus quarterly service charge

\*\*\*minimum charge of \$100.00

Details of other rates can be found in Schedule A.

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

## 2.0 Background

Rates were last set in Board Order No. 27/18, with current rates coming into effect January 2, 2020.

As of 2021, the Utility provided water and wastewater service to 5,408 customers. Of these, 5,180 are serviced by a 5/8" meter (typically residential customers) and 429 are serviced by a 3/4" or larger meter size (typically commercial, industrial or institutional). Two of the customers receive water only services and 572 of the customers receive wastewater only services.

The City projects its total customers will increase to 5,971 by 2026, based on average annual residential water consumption per service in recent years. Overall system capacity has increased due to general population growth of the community, which averaged about 2% per year during this same period.

### Water Supply/Distribution

The drinking water supply is provided by two banks of wells that draw from a limestone aquifer. The first bank of three wells supplies the primary treatment plant and reservoirs and the second bank of two wells supplies the secondary treatment plant and reservoirs. This second bank has a well field development plan in place for the next ten plus years.

The supply capacity of these wells is approximately 125% of average system demand. With current growth trends in the community, these wells will provide the required water supply into 2030. The City plans to implement a pre-designed plan for an expansion to the secondary water treatment plant and pumping station #3 in the long term. The estimated cost for this expansion would be \$5 million dollars.

The primary drinking water treatment plant was upgraded in 2006 and current capacity of the system is similar to the supply wells statistics stated previously. The secondary water

treatment plant was constructed in 2018/2019 to provide increased capacity for the growth of the City. The capacity of the new plant is designed to expand as distribution demand requires in the future.

The primary treatment plant and reservoir storage facilities include an elevated water tower (1972 - capacity 400,000 gallons) and two underground reservoirs (1964 –capacity 250,000 gallons and 1999 - capacity 1,750,000 gallons). The secondary treatment plant and reservoir has a storage capacity of 1,075,000 gallons. The combined capacity of these reservoirs provides sufficient water storage to meet the community's needs, including capacity to meet the needs of the Steinbach Fire Department in the event that a fire requiring significant water flows and/or water quantities occurs.

Approximately 90% of the properties within the City are connected to the drinking water distribution network. The underground pipe network varies in age and type of material with the oldest being approximately 60 years old. Pipe condition and underground environment conditions are good, as demonstrated by the minimal number of water main breaks experienced annually.

## **Wastewater Collection and Treatment**

Approximately 95% of the properties within the City are connected to the wastewater collection network. The majority of properties in the City are connected to gravity flow pipe with approximately 540 properties served by low pressure systems. The underground pipe network varies in age and type of material with the oldest being approximately 60 years old. Pipe and underground environment conditions are good. An annual pipe condition inspection program is in place which ensures that all pipes are inspected at least once every 10 years.

As of the date of submission, there were four neighbourhood lift stations collecting wastewater from across the City and one main lift/pump station that pumps all collected wastewater to the City's wastewater lagoon, with two more expected online by the end of 2023.

The City operates a wastewater lagoon that was opened in 1992 with an expansion completed in 2011. Current capacity can service a population of up to 22,000 people.

### **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 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 September 22, 2022, the Board received the City's application to revise water and wastewater rates as set out in By-Law No. 2163, having had first reading September 6, 2022. The application was accompanied by a rate study completed by the City.

The Board issued a Public Notice of Application on November 23, 2022 affording customers the opportunity to comment to both the Board and the City with respect to the proposed rate changes. The Board did not receive any responses to the Notice.

The rates were calculated using the following revenue requirement projections:

	Rate Year 1	Rate Year 2	Rate Year 3	Rate Year 4
<b>General</b>				
Administration (building, office, staff, etc)	424,270	441,241	458,891	477,246
Billing and collection	26,957	28,035	29,156	30,323
Interest on short term debt	31,980	33,259	34,590	35,973
<b>Total general expenses</b>	<b>483,207</b>	<b>502,535</b>	<b>522,637</b>	<b>543,542</b>
Utility custom work	21,285	22,136	23,021	23,942
Penalties	10,660	11,086	11,530	11,991
<b>Total general revenue</b>	<b>31,945</b>	<b>33,222</b>	<b>34,551</b>	<b>35,933</b>
<b>Net revenue requirement - general</b>	<b>451,262</b>	<b>469,313</b>	<b>488,086</b>	<b>507,609</b>
<b>Water</b>				
Purification and treatment	258,855	269,209	279,978	291,177
Service of supply	369,884	384,680	400,067	416,070
Transmission and distribution	1,277,849	1,328,963	1,382,122	1,437,406
Depreciation	1,906,671	2,052,099	2,126,679	2,298,985
Interest on long term debt	168,741	192,854	291,682	328,543
Reserves	300,000	312,000	324,480	337,459
Minor capital upgrades (see notes below)	500,000	-450,000	-80,000	30,000
Contingency	240,659	153,285	198,217	217,465
<b>Total water expenses</b>	<b>5,022,659</b>	<b>4,243,090</b>	<b>4,923,225</b>	<b>5,357,105</b>
Installation revenue	83,200	86,528	89,989	93,589
Hydrant rentals	105,108	109,312	113,684	118,232
Amortization of capital grants	232,191	232,191	232,191	232,191
Amortization of contributed assets	624,914	695,942	770,552	848,830
Taxation revenues	1,854,130	966,360	1,454,141	1,704,877
Other revenue - bulk water fees	88,400	91,936	95,613	99,438
<b>Total water revenue</b>	<b>2,987,943</b>	<b>2,182,269</b>	<b>2,756,170</b>	<b>3,097,157</b>
<b>Net revenue requirement - water</b>	<b>2,034,716</b>	<b>2,060,821</b>	<b>2,167,055</b>	<b>2,259,948</b>

	Rate Year 1	Rate Year 2	Rate Year 3	Rate Year 4
<b>Wastewater</b>				
Wastewater collection system	485,167	504,574	524,757	545,747
Lift station costs	200,846	208,880	217,235	225,924
Wastewater treatment and disposal	308,672	321,019	333,860	347,214
Depreciation	1,343,585	1,416,436	1,514,413	1,589,097
Interest on long term debt	87,527	109,466	85,278	164,584
Reserves	300,000	312,000	324,480	337,459
Minor capital upgrades (see notes below)	-160,000	-40,000	-10,000	210,000
Contingency	131,985	149,905	159,061	187,463
<b>Total wastewater expenses</b>	<b>2,697,782</b>	<b>2,982,280</b>	<b>3,149,084</b>	<b>3,607,488</b>
Lagoon tipping fees	8,286	8,617	8,962	9,320
Amortization of capital grants	188,350	188,350	188,350	188,350
Amortization of contributed assets	393,183	424,033	456,427	490,440
Taxation revenues	457,770	591,778	591,788	863,451
<b>Total wastewater revenue</b>	<b>1,047,589</b>	<b>1,212,778</b>	<b>1,245,527</b>	<b>1,551,561</b>
<b>Net revenue requirement - wastewater</b>	<b>1,650,193</b>	<b>1,769,502</b>	<b>1,903,557</b>	<b>2,055,927</b>

The City uses five year terms for all of the debt it issues. This is an unusual case for utility debt and requires some adaptation to the Board's guidelines and standard methodology. The timing difference creates a significant discrepancy between the taxation revenue that is removed from the rate calculation (see "Taxation Revenues" in the table above) and the offsetting depreciation expense. The City used the "Minor capital upgrades" lines to adjust for these effects and thus avoid having the rates fluctuate significantly from year to year. All "Minor capital upgrades" amounts over the 4-year rate term net to zero.

### Contingency Allowance and Utility Reserves

The City has included contingency allowance to supplement ongoing infrastructure maintenance costs necessary to maintain the Utility's infrastructure. The City has also included reserves of \$300,000 each for water and wastewater in its year one rates, increasing at a rate of 4% per year for years two through four.

Planned infrastructure replacements and upgrades to be funded in part by the Utility replacement reserve over the next five years include underground water and wastewater pipe replacements in existing neighborhoods, a major mechanical lift station upgrade and a wastewater collection study.

## Working Capital

As per the 2022 audited financial statements, the working capital surplus at December 31, 2022 was:

	2022
Accumulated Fund Surplus/Deficit	<b>\$76,565,716</b>
Deduct tangible capital assets	<b>\$78,159,835</b>
Add long term debt	<b>\$2,766,596</b>
Add utility reserves	<b>\$2,313,381</b>
<b>Equals Working Capital Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$3,485,858</b>
Utility expenses	<b>\$6,309,664</b>
<b>20% of utility expenses (target)</b>	<b>\$1,261,933</b>

## Operating Deficits

The City has advised the Utility has not experienced any operating deficits in the previous five years of operation.

## Cost Allocation Methodology

The Board approved the Utility's current Cost Allocation Methodology (CAM) in Board Order No. 27/18. The City did not propose any changes to the existing CAM.

## Unaccounted for Water

The City reports unaccounted for water was 8.74% in 2019, 10.99% in 2020 and 4.12% in 2021. The City has a program to identify and measure previously unmetered water sites within the City's water production and treatment facilities. The Utility is now better

able to determine the volume of water losses due to fire department activities and losses due to water main maintenance and water main breaks.

## 5.0 Board Findings

Considering the City's filing and noting there was no public response to the Notice of Application, the Board has chosen a paper review process.

The Board has reviewed the application and revenue projections presented by the City and finds the projections to be reasonable. The Board grants approval of the revised rates for the City, effective January 1, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.

The Board notes these are the dates the rates are to come into effect. Previously, there was a discrepancy between the date approved in Board Order No. 27/18 and the date implemented by the City; the City subsequently applied for, and the Board approved, a revised implementation date in Board Order No. 60/20. The Board seeks to avoid another such misunderstanding.

The Board requires the City to review its water and wastewater rates for adequacy and file a report with the Public Utilities Board, as well as a full rate application for revised rates if required, by no later than June 30, 2028.

The Board directs the City to prepare a Notice for its ratepayers, informing them of the decisions in this Order. The City is directed to provide the Board a copy of this Notice and an amended rate By-law, having had third reading.

The Board encourages the City to review Board Order Nos. 27/23 and 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 City 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 water and wastewater rates for the City of Steinbach Water and Wastewater Utility, BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROVED in accordance with the attached Schedule A, effective January 1, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027.
2. The City of Steinbach provide written notice of the decisions in this Order to its customers, and file a copy with the Board.
3. The City of Steinbach amend its Water and Wastewater 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.
4. The City of Steinbach review its Water and Wastewater 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 June 30, 2028.

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. 137/23  
issued by The Public Utilities Board



Assistant Associate Secretary

## Schedule A

### 1. SCHEDULE OF RATES – effective January 1, 2024

a) Quarterly Commodity Rates	<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>
per cubic meter	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.86	\$ 1.94
b) Quarterly Service Charge (per meter)			\$ 20.05
c) Minimum Quarterly Charge			

Meter Size (Inches)	Group Capacity Ratio	Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge (\$)	Commodity Charge – Water (\$)	Commodity Charge – Wastewater (\$)	Total Quarterly Minimum (\$)
5/8	1	15	20.05	16.20	12.90	49.15
3/4	2	30	20.05	32.40	25.80	78.25
1	4	60	20.05	64.80	51.60	136.45
1 ½	10	150	20.05	162.00	129.00	311.05
2	25	375	20.05	405.00	322.50	747.55
3	45	675	20.05	729.00	580.50	1,329.55
4	90	1,350	20.05	1,458.00	1,161.00	2,639.05
6	170	2,550	20.05	2,754.00	2,193.00	4,967.05
8	300	4,500	20.05	4,860.00	3,870.00	8,750.05

2. SCHEDULE OF RATES – effective January 1, 2025

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>
a) Quarterly Commodity Rates per cubic meter	\$ 1.10	\$ 0.90	\$ 2.00
b) Quarterly Service Charge (per meter)			\$ 20.44
c) Minimum Quarterly Charge			

Meter Size (Inches)	Group Capacity Ratio	Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge (\$)	Commodity Charge – Water (\$)	Commodity Charge – Wastewater (\$)	Total Quarterly Minimum (\$)
5/8	1	15	20.44	16.50	13.50	50.44
3/4	2	30	20.44	33.00	27.00	80.44
1	4	60	20.44	66.00	54.00	140.44
1 ½	10	150	20.44	165.00	135.00	320.44
2	25	375	20.44	412.50	337.50	770.44
3	45	675	20.44	742.50	607.50	1,370.44
4	90	1,350	20.44	1,485.00	1,215.00	2,720.44
6	170	2,550	20.44	2,805.00	2,295.00	5,120.44
8	300	4,500	20.44	4,950.00	4,050.00	9,020.44



3. SCHEDULE OF RATES – effective January 1, 2026

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>
a) Quarterly Commodity Rates			
per cubic meter	\$ 1.12	\$ 0.95	\$ 2.07
b) Quarterly Service Charge (per meter)			\$ 20.84

c) Minimum Quarterly Charge

Meter Size (Inches)	Group Capacity Ratio	Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge (\$)	Commodity Charge – Water (\$)	Commodity Charge – Wastewater (\$)	Total Quarterly Minimum (\$)
5/8	1	15	20.84	16.80	14.25	51.89
3/4	2	30	20.84	33.60	28.50	82.94
1	4	60	20.84	67.20	57.00	145.04
1 ½	10	150	20.84	168.00	142.50	331.34
2	25	375	20.84	420.00	356.25	797.09
3	45	675	20.84	756.00	641.25	1,418.09
4	90	1,350	20.84	1,512.00	1,282.50	2,815.34
6	170	2,550	20.84	2,856.00	2,422.50	5,299.34
8	300	4,500	20.84	5,040.00	4,275.00	9,335.84

4. SCHEDULE OF RATES – effective January 1, 2027

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>
a) Quarterly Commodity Rates per cubic meter	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.01	\$ 2.15
b) Quarterly Service Charge (per meter)			\$ 21.25

c) Minimum Quarterly Charge

Meter Size (Inches)	Group Capacity Ratio	Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge (\$)	Commodity Charge – Water (\$)	Commodity Charge – Wastewater (\$)	Total Quarterly Minimum (\$)
5/8	1	15	21.25	17.10	15.15	53.50
3/4	2	30	21.25	34.20	30.30	85.75
1	4	60	21.25	68.40	60.60	150.25
1 ½	10	150	21.25	171.00	151.50	343.75
2	25	375	21.25	427.50	378.75	827.50
3	45	675	21.25	769.50	681.75	1,472.50
4	90	1,350	21.25	1,539.00	1,363.50	2,923.75
6	170	2,550	21.25	2,907.00	2,575.50	5,503.75
8	300	4,500	21.25	5,130.00	4,545.00	9,696.25

5. Minimum Quarterly Charges

Notwithstanding the commodity rates set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 hereof, all customers will pay the applicable quarterly minimum charges as set out above, which include water allowances indicated.

a) Water Only Customers

Minimum charge will be the same for each meter size as shown above, but the wastewater commodity charge will be excluded.

b) Wastewater Only Customers

With meters – Minimum charge will be the same for each meter size as shown above, but the water commodity charge will be excluded. The water from the customer’s private service shall be metered at the customer’s cost and the wastewater charges will be based on the quantity of water used by the customer.

Without meters – these customers are deemed single-family residences, and as such, will be charged a flat rate based on the estimated annual average consumption and use of water and wastewater by all residential customers. The flat rate charge for these customers will be based on this average estimated quarterly consumption amount in each year multiplied by the water and wastewater commodity rate in effect from time to time, plus the customer service charge according to the following schedule.

	2024	2025	2026	2027
Flat rate per quarter	\$ 58.75	\$ 60.94	\$ 63.59	\$ 66.70

6. Meter Resealing Fee

When damages, or meter tampering, or both are reported, all costs to restore or replace the meter, as determined by the City Waterworks Department Manager, shall be charged to the customer. The amount charged shall also include a commodity charge for the estimated quantity of un-metered water used, the related wastewater discharged, plus a fee of \$75.00 to reseal the meter unless prior written authorization for breaking the seal has been issued by the City Waterworks Department Manager.

7. Meter Circumventing

Any consumer who circumvents the water meter by installing a bypass line around the meter or by a dual line from the water main so as to draw water that has not been metered shall pay a fine of \$500.00 plus a charge for unmetered water consumed for each occurrence. Water services to the customer may be terminated upon discovery of an unauthorized bypass line in use, and service will not be restored until the bypass is metered or removed and the fine and water charges are paid.

8. Additional Meters

Where deemed expedient, the City of Steinbach (the "City") may elect to install auxiliary meters to separately record the amount of wastewater or water for billing purposes or upon application to the City Waterworks Department Manager, by an owner or operator of a premises where a wastewater service is installed, the City shall install an auxiliary meter at the expense of the applicant, for such purpose.

9. Bulk Water Sales Rate

All water sold in bulk by the City shall be charged for at a rate per cubic meter on a pro-rated basis according to the following table. The minimum charge for each sale of bulk water shall be \$100.00.

	2024	2025	2026	2027
Bulk Water Rate per cubic meter	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.50

#### 10. Service to Customers Outside of City Limits

The City may enter into agreements with customers for the provision of water and wastewater services to properties located outside the legal boundaries of the City. Such agreements shall provide for payment of the appropriate rate set out in the schedule, as well as a surcharge, set by resolution of Council. In addition, all costs of connection to the utility mains and the installation and maintenance of service connections shall be paid by the customer, as set by resolution of Council.

#### 11. Billings and Outstanding Bills

Accounts shall be billed quarterly, and will be due and payable not less than 21 days after the date of billing. A late payment charge of 1.25% per month shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date.

In the event that an account remains outstanding, the account may be transferred to the realty tax account of the property in respect of which the water account is unpaid, by an authorized representative of the City, to be collected as ordinary realty taxes.

#### 12. Re-connection or Disconnection of a Service

The City shall charge a fee in the amount of \$100.00 for a re-connection or a disconnection of a service, if requested by a customer. Any site that is planned for abandonment or demolition will continue to receive a quarterly bill until such time as the City Waterworks Manager has inspected and approved a proper disconnect from the main water and wastewater lines.

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

### 13. Hydrant Rentals

The City or any other hydrant owner shall pay to the utility an annual fee according to the following table for each hydrant connected to the system, which shall include the cost of water used for system maintenance and fire protection.

	2024	2025	2026	2027
Annual hydrant rental per hydrant	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 155	\$ 155

### 14. Water Allowance Due to Line Freezing

In any case where, at the request of the City and approval of the Waterworks Manager, a customer allows water to run continuously for a period of time to prevent the water lines in the water system from freezing, the charge to the customer for that quarter shall be the average of the billings for the last two previous quarters to the same customer, or for the same service, as applicable.

### 15. Wastewater Surcharge

There may be levied, in addition to rates set forth above, a special surcharge on sewage having a biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in excess of 300 parts per million (ppm), or on sewage containing other nutrients requiring special treatment or removal as identified by the City or by the Province of Manitoba from time to time, based on the actual costs of treatment required for the particular wastewater.

### 16. Water Meters

All new services and meters for water and wastewater shall be installed and metered at the customer's cost.

Residential meters shall be owned, inspected, and maintained by the utility system of the City with the costs of maintenance and meter replacement for normal use to be the responsibility of the City.

Non-residential meters shall be inspected and maintained by the utility system of the City. All costs of ownership, maintenance and meter replacement shall be the responsibility of the non-residential customer. Fees for time and materials incurred by the City for the maintenance of these meters shall be billed to the customer.

17. Meter Testing Charges

Any customer who desires and requests that their water meter be tested for accuracy shall deposit with the City the sum of three hundred (\$300.00) dollars. If the water meter, upon being tested, is found to measure within the allowable limits of accuracy, an amount equal to the cost of the meter test will be retained by the City, and the balance of the deposit shall be returned to the customer. If the water meter fails to measure within the allowable limits of accuracy, the deposit shall be refunded in full and the customer's account shall be adjusted. The allowable limit of meter variation shall be 4% of average flow.

18. Hauled Sewage Dumping Fee

All hauled sewage that is discharged into the City's wastewater system shall be charged for at a rate per cubic meter on a pro-rated basis according to the following table. The minimum charge for each load of hauled sewage shall be \$30.00.

	2024	2025	2026	2027
Hauled sewage rate per cubic meter	\$ 3.44	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.80	\$ 4.04