

**Order No. 21/23**

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. FRANÇOIS XAVIER  
ST. FRANÇOIS XAVIER WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY  
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2023**

---

**February 15, 2023**

**BEFORE: Irene Hamilton K.C., Panel Chair  
Shawn McCutcheon, Panel Member  
Jack Winram, B.A. (Econ), Panel Member**

## Table of Contents

1.0	Executive Summary.....	3
2.0	Background .....	4
	Water Supply/Distribution .....	4
	Wastewater Collection/Treatment.....	4
	Unaccounted for Water .....	4
3.0	Application.....	5
	Contingency Allowance and Utility Reserves.....	7
	Working Capital Surplus/Deficit .....	7
	Cost Allocation Methodology .....	8
4.0	Board Findings .....	9
5.0	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:.....	10
	SCHEDULE A.....	13

## 1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves the revised water and wastewater rates for the Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier (RM), St. François Xavier Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility), but varies the effective dates to April 1, 2023, January 1, 2024, January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026.

The approved rates are as follows:

	<b>Current Rates</b>	<b>April 1, 2023</b>	<b>January 1, 2024</b>	<b>January 1, 2025</b>	<b>January 1, 2026</b>
Quarterly Service Charge	\$8.03	\$9.46	\$10.89	\$12.32	\$13.73
Water (per cubic meter)	\$2.85	\$3.07	\$3.29	\$3.51	\$3.73
Wastewater (per cubic meter)	\$1.18	\$1.07	\$0.96	\$0.85	\$0.73
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$62.99	\$67.42	\$70.39	\$73.36	\$76.17
Minimum Quarterly Charge – Wastewater Only Customers**	\$72.40	\$69.38	\$64.65	\$59.92	\$54.61
Hydrant Charges	\$50.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00

\*Current rates based on 13.638 cubic meters. Revised rates based on 14 cubic meters.

\*\*Current rates based on 54.553 cubic meters. Revised rates based on 56 cubic meters.

Details of other rates may be found in the attached Schedule A.

Rationale for the Board's decisions may be found under the heading Board Findings below.

## 2.0 Background

The RM owns and operates the Utility serving 345 water and wastewater customers and 81 water only customers (or a total of 426 customers). Rates were last approved for the Utility in 2021 in Board Order No. 45/21 using the Simplified Rate Application Process, with the last increase occurring July 1, 2021.

### Water Supply/Distribution

The Utility purchases water from the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative (CRWC) Incorporated (Headingly plant). Purchased water is sent to a reservoir owned by CRWC, and is located in the RM. The water system was constructed in 1995 and no fundamental problems have been identified with the underground infrastructure.

Water is provided to customers by one of three methods: directly from metered regional lines; from the reservoir using the metered municipal distribution system; or a truck stand at the reservoir. Truck stand water is sold using pre-paid cards.

### Wastewater Collection/Treatment

The Wastewater system was constructed in 1995 and no fundamental problems have been identified with the underground infrastructure. Wastewater treatment is performed at a lagoon. The lagoon was upgraded in 2014 to provide for a population of approximately 2,100 and therefore has capacity to provide for the current population of the RM of 1,449.

### Unaccounted for Water

The acceptable percentage of unaccounted for water is 10%, based on industry standards. If the percentage is above this amount, the applicant is to explain why and provide a plan to remedy.

As at 2020, unaccounted for water for the Utility is 4.7% and does not exceed the industry standard of 10%.

### 3.0 Application

On May 13, 2022, the RM applied for revised wastewater rates for the Utility. The application was accompanied by a rate study prepared by the RM's consultant and By-Law No. 2022 - 03 having had first reading on March 15, 2022.

A Public Notice of Application was issued on May 18, 2022 allowing for any questions or comments with respect to the proposed rate increases to the Board and/or the RM on or before June 17, 2022. No responses to the Notice were received.

When reviewing an application the Board can either: hold a public hearing at which the applicant can present its case and customers can present their concerns; or where it is deemed to be in the best interests of a utility and its customers, the Board can review the application using a paper review process without holding a public hearing. The paper review process considers all written materials submitted by the Utility and the public, as well as any information requests and responses between the Board and the Utility. This process may reduce regulatory costs to the Utility.

A public hearing process allows the Utility and the public the opportunity to review the application and address any concerns with the Board present.

Whenever reasonable, the Board will review the application using a paper review process, which saves the cost of a public hearing process. The Board has chosen a paper review process for the RM's application.

The rates were calculated based on the following projections using an annual inflation rate of 3% in all calculations:

<b>Schedule of Utility Rate Requirements</b>				
<b>Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier – St. François Xavier Water and Wastewater Utility</b>				
<b>2023 to 2026 Budget Forecasts (\$)</b>				
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
	<b>Forecast</b>			
<b>General Expenses</b>				
Administration	26,449	27,242	28,060	28,901
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>26,449</b>	<b>27,242</b>	<b>28,060</b>	<b>28,901</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Penalties	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Investment Income	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,500</b>
<b>Net Costs General</b>	<b>20,949</b>	<b>21,742</b>	<b>22,560</b>	<b>23,401</b>
<b>Water Expenses</b>				
Water Purchases	180,574	180,574	180,574	180,574
Transmission and Distribution	48,748	50,211	51,717	53,269
Amortization	62,724	62,809	62,586	60,511
Interest on Long-Term Debt	11,713	10,042	8,275	6,404
Contingency	22,859	22,859	22,859	22,859
Reserve	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Water Expenses</b>	<b>326,618</b>	<b>326,495</b>	<b>326,011</b>	<b>323,617</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Hydrant Rentals	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,250
<b>Total Water Revenue</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,250</b>
<b>Net Costs Water</b>	<b>321,368</b>	<b>321,245</b>	<b>320,761</b>	<b>318,367</b>
<b>Wastewater Expenses</b>				
Collection System	28,644	29,504	30,389	31,300
Lift Station	10,667	10,987	11,316	11,656
Other	1,061	1,093	1,126	1,159
Amortization	49,212	48,672	48,449	47,574
Interest on Long-Term Debt	4,617	3,792	2,920	1,999
Contingency	2,112	2,112	2,112	2,112
Reserve	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Wastewater Expenses</b>	<b>96,313</b>	<b>96,160</b>	<b>96,312</b>	<b>95,800</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Septic Pumpout Service*	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
<b>Total Wastewater Revenue</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>

<b>Net Wastewater Costs</b>	<b>73,313</b>	<b>73,160</b>	<b>73,312</b>	<b>72,800</b>
<b>Net Operating Costs</b>	<b>415,630</b>	<b>416,147</b>	<b>416,633</b>	<b>414,568</b>

\*All wastewater customers have their low pressure wastewater pumped out annually by a contractor hired by the RM. The RM charges customers as a separate line item on their bills to provide for these costs.

The proposed Utility rate increases are primarily required to provide for increased administration, wastewater treatment and disposal, and wastewater collection system costs.

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

As per the Board's Water and Wastewater Rate Application Guidelines, a yearly allowance equal to 10% of the variable operating costs is recommended for a contingency allowance.

The RM has included an annual contingency allowance of \$22,859 for water and \$2,112 for wastewater or a total annual contingency allowance of \$24,971.

The RM has not included an annual reserve allowance. The RM noted in its Application, funding in the utility reserve fund is anticipated to be sufficient for future capital projects.

### **Working Capital Surplus/Deficit**

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

As per the 2021 Audited Financial Statements, the most recent information available, the working capital surplus for the Utility at December 31, 2021 was:

	2021
Utility Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$3,181,285
Deduct: Tangible Capital Assets	(3,328,457)
Add: Long-Term Debt	323,487
Add: Utility Reserve	559,379
<b>Equals Working Capital Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$735,694</b>
Operating Expenses	387,110
<b>20% of Operating Expenses (Target)</b>	<b>\$77,422</b>

The Utility meets the Board minimum working capital surplus of 20%.

### Cost Allocation Methodology

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

The RM’s allocation plan for shared costs is as follows:

<b>Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier                      St. François Xavier Water and Wastewater Utility                      Allocation Plan for Non-Direct Shared Services (see Note 1)                      as at February, 2022</b>			
Category	Sub-category	Options	
1.0 Administrative Staff			5.25% of general government services (as defined in Financial Plan), excluding assessment and grant expenses
	1.1 Billing services – meter reading to receipting and collection.		Meter reading – N/A; Receipting and collection are part of the admin. staff allocation
	1.2 Accounting/ auditing/ including bylaw making and enforcement.		5.25% of audit costs



	1.3 Common office space		5.25% of office cots, utilities
	1.4 Office overheads (telephone, photocopier, computer, etc.)		5.25% of printing, postage, and stationary
2.0 Operating, construction and maintenance costs			
	2.1 Vehicle – fuel, maintenance, lease costs, capital costs		Vehicle costs are charged to the Utility
	2.2 Labor – full time, part time, on call, sick time, vacation (see Note 2)		Utility staff use timesheets
	2.3 Public works building and property.		2% of building costs are charged to the Utility
	2.4 Road repairs and alike (see Note 3)		Based on actual costs
3.0 Major projects			
	Interest/ financing		N/A
	Labor		N/A
	External costs		N/A

Note 1 – Allocation must be updated periodically to reflect impacts of inflation.

Note 2 – Including salaries and benefits.

Note 3 – If a project involves work benefitting both the Utility and general operations the costs may be shared (i.e. If reconstructing a road and replacing services at the same time, a portion of the roadwork costs may be allocated to the Utility.)

#### 4.0 Board Findings

The Board has reviewed the application and the projections for utility rates presented by the RM’s consultant in the rate study and finds them to be acceptable. The Board approves the revised rates as applied for by the RM, but varies the effective dates to April 1, 2023, January 1, 2024, January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026.

The Board approves the RM’s revised Cost Allocation Methodology and reminds the RM the methodology must be used consistently; any changes to the Cost Allocation Methodology require Board approval.

The Board requires the RM to review its water and wastewater rates for the Utility for adequacy and file a report with the Public Utilities Board, as well as an application for revised rates (if required) on or before December 31, 2026.

The Board notes the Utility's current billing practice includes an annual charge to provide for the annual contract cost of wastewater pumpouts. The Board directs the RM to add wording to its Water and Wastewater Utility Rates By-Law that accurately reflects and discloses the Utility's billing practice for contracted annual wastewater pumpouts.

The Board notes the Utility has expiring taxation revenues of \$38,572 in 2027 and \$21,186 in 2029. The RM's consultant has advised the Board that the expiring revenue is forecasted to be fully offset by decreased amortization expenses, decreased interest expenses resulting from expiring debentures, and increased taxation revenues for a new debenture to provide for wastewater related upgrades.

The Board notes the Board approved the pass through process for the Municipality Members (Municipalities) of the CRWC in Board Order No. 137/22. The process allows the RM to pass through CWRC wholesale water rate revisions.

The Board reminds the RM it must strictly adhere to the pass through process as outlined in Board Order No. 137/22 and must apply to the Board for any other revisions. The Board also reminds the RM, it is to provide notice to the Board before implementation of such revisions, must pass by-laws and file them with the Board once the revision occurs, and provide notes to customers accordingly.

## **5.0 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The revised wastewater rates for the Rural Municipality St. François Xavier, St. François Xavier Water and Wastewater Utility, BE AND ARE HEREBY VARIED in accordance with the attached Schedule A, effective April 1, 2023, January 1, 2024, January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026.
2. The Shared Cost Allocation Methodology for the Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED.

3. The Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier is to provide a notice of the decisions found in this Order to its customers as soon as possible, with a copy provided to the Public Utilities Board.
4. The Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier amend its water and wastewater rate By-Law to include the billing practices for the St. François Xavier Water and Wastewater Utility for contracted wastewater pumpout services.
5. The Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier amend its water and wastewater 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.
6. The Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier review its water and wastewater rates for the St. François Xavier Water and Wastewater Utility for adequacy and file a report with the Public Utilities Board, as well as an application for revised rates if required, by no later than December 31, 2026.

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

Fees payable upon this Order - \$500.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"Irene Hamilton, K.C."  
Panel Chair

"Frederick Mykytyshyn"  
Assistant Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 21/23  
Issued by The Public Utilities Board



Assistant Associate Secretary

**SCHEDULE A**  
**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. FRANÇOIS XAVIER**  
**ST. FRANÇOIS XAVIER WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY**  
**WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES BY-LAW NO. 2022 06**  
**SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES**  
**Effective April 1, 2023**

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

Quarterly Service Charge \$9.46

Quarterly Rates	Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
Per Cubic Meter	\$3.07	\$1.07	\$4.14

**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**

Meter Size	Group Capacity Ratio	Water Included Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge	Water Commodity Charge	Wastewater Commodity Charge	Water & Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum	Water Only Quarterly Minimum
5/8 inch	1	14	\$9.46	\$42.98	\$14.98	\$67.42	\$52.44
3/4 inch	2	28	\$9.46	\$85.96	\$29.96	\$125.38	\$95.42
1 inch	4	56	\$9.46	\$171.92	\$59.92	\$241.30	\$181.38
1 1/2 inch	10	140	\$9.46	\$429.80	\$149.80	\$589.06	\$439.26
2 inch	25	350	\$9.46	\$1,074.50	\$374.50	\$1,458.46	\$1,083.96

**b. Metered 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. Wastewater Only Customers**

The wastewater only charge is based on 56 cubic meters plus the customer service charge.

The quarterly charge for wastewater only customers is  $(56 * \$1.07) + \$9.46 = \$69.38$

**1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charge January 1, 2024**

Quarterly Service Charge \$10.89

Quarterly Rates	Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
Per Cubic Meter	\$3.29	\$0.96	\$4.25

**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**

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Group Capacity Ratio</u>	<u>Water Included Cubic Meters</u>	<u>Customer Service Charge</u>	<u>Water Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Wastewater Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum</u>	<u>Water Only Quarterly Minimum</u>
5/8 inch	1	14	\$10.89	\$46.06	\$13.44	\$70.39	\$56.95
¾ inch	2	28	\$10.89	\$92.12	\$26.88	\$129.89	\$103.01
1 inch	4	56	\$10.89	\$184.24	\$53.76	\$248.89	\$195.13
1 ½ inch	10	140	\$10.89	\$460.60	\$134.40	\$605.89	\$471.49
2 inch	25	350	\$10.89	\$1,151.50	\$336.00	\$1,498.39	\$1,162.39

**b. Metered 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. Wastewater Only Customers**

The wastewater only charge is based on 56 cubic meters plus the customer service charge.

The quarterly charge for wastewater only customers is  $(56 * \$0.96) + \$10.89 = \$64.65$

1. **Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charge** **January 1, 2025**

Quarterly Service Charge \$12.32

Quarterly Rates	Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
Per Cubic Meter	\$3.51	\$0.85	\$4.36

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**

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Group Capacity Ratio</u>	<u>Water Included Cubic Meters</u>	<u>Customer Service Charge</u>	<u>Water Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Wastewater Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum</u>	<u>Water Only Quarterly Minimum</u>
5/8 inch	1	14	\$12.32	\$49.14	\$11.90	\$73.36	\$61.46
¾ inch	2	28	\$12.32	\$98.28	\$23.80	\$134.40	\$110.60
1 inch	4	56	\$12.32	\$196.56	\$47.60	\$256.48	\$208.88
1 ½ inch	10	140	\$12.32	\$491.40	\$119.00	\$622.72	\$503.72
2 inch	25	350	\$12.32	\$1,228.50	\$297.50	\$1,538.32	\$1,240.82

b. **Metered 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. **Wastewater Only Customers**

The wastewater only charge is based on 56 cubic meters plus the customer service charge.

The quarterly charge for wastewater only customers is  $(56 * \$0.85) + \$12.32 = \$59.92$

1. **Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charge** **January 1, 2026**

Quarterly Service Charge \$13.73

Quarterly Rates	Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
Per Cubic Meter	\$3.73	\$0.73	\$4.46

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**

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Group Capacity Ratio</u>	<u>Water Included Cubic Meters</u>	<u>Customer Service Charge</u>	<u>Water Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Wastewater Commodity Charge</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum</u>	<u>Water Only Quarterly Minimum</u>
5/8 inch	1	14	\$13.73	\$52.22	\$10.22	\$76.17	\$65.95
¾ inch	2	28	\$13.73	\$104.44	\$20.44	\$138.61	\$118.17
1 inch	4	56	\$13.73	\$208.88	\$40.88	\$263.49	\$222.61
1 ½ inch	10	140	\$13.73	\$522.20	\$102.20	\$638.13	\$535.93
2 inch	25	350	\$13.73	\$1,305.50	\$255.50	\$1,574.73	\$1,319.23

b. **Metered 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. **Wastewater Only Customers**

The wastewater only charge is based on 56 cubic meters plus the customer service charge.

The quarterly charge for wastewater only customers is  $(56 * \$0.73) + \$13.73 = \$54.61$



The following clauses take effect April 1, 2023:

**3. Service To Customers Outside Utility's Limits**

The Council of the Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier may sign Agreements with customers for the provision of water and wastewater services to properties located outside the boundaries of the Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier. 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 the Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier 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 and the due date shall be at least 30 days after the mailing of the bills.

A late payment charge of 1.25% per month shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date.

**5. Disconnection**

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

**6. Reconnection**

Any service disconnected, whether due to non-payment of account or for any other reason(s) mutually agreed to by the customer and the Rural Municipality (i.e. repairs necessitated by negligence of the customer, changes in tenant, vacancy for an extended period of time, etc.) shall not be reconnected until a reconnection fee of \$40.00 and all arrears and penalties, if any, 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. Where charges and penalties pursuant to this by-law are not paid within sixty (60) days from the date when they were incurred, said charges and penalties shall be added to the taxes on the property and collected in the same manner as other taxes.

**8. Hydrant Charges**

The Rural Municipality of St. François Xavier will pay to the utility an annual rental of \$150.00 for each hydrant connected to the system.

**9. Water Allowance Due To Line Freezing**

That in any case where, at the request of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), a customer allows water to run continuously for any period of time to prevent the water lines in the water system from freezing, the charge to the customer for the current quarter shall be the average of the billings for the last two previous quarters to the same customer, or to the same premises if the occupant has changed.

**10. Wastewater Surcharges**

a) There may be levied annually, in addition to the rates set forth above, a special surcharge on wastewater 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 wastewater or industrial waste.

### **11. Meter Inspections**

On an annual basis or on a schedule determined by the Rural Municipality, the customer will provide access to the Municipal meter reader to record the water meter reading and to inspect the meter. In the event that the customer is not home or does not grant access, the customer will be notified that they must arrange a time and date for an appointment with the Water Utility to have the meter reading recorded and inspected within 30 days of the Water Utility notice. Failure to arrange and provide access to the Water Utility within 30 days of the notice will result in a \$50.00 fine. After a period of 60 days from the Water Utility notice and a failure to arrange and provide access to the Water Utility, the water service may be shut off. Any service that has been disconnected shall not be reconnected until all fines, penalties and the reconnection fee set out in section 7 have been paid

### **12. Meter Testing**

That in any case where a utility customer requests that a meter be tested for accuracy, the customer will provide the Rural Municipality with a deposit of \$100.00, plus any applicable meter testing costs. The Rural 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 Rural Municipality and the deposit will be refunded to the customer. 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.

### **13. Meter Tampering**

Where there is evidence of meter tampering a minimum charge of \$500.00 will be applied to the customer's account in addition to an amount calculated to adjust for the tampering based on historical usage.

### **14. 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 Rural Municipality's water system.

If a condition is found to exist which, in the opinion of the Rural Municipality, is contrary to the aforesaid, the Rural 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.

**15. 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 Rural Municipality, or its agents, may enter the property, effect repairs and charge the cost thereof against the subject property as ordinary taxes.

**16. Authorization For Officer To Enter Upon Premises**

The Public Works Manager, or other employee authorized by the Rural Municipality in the absence of the Public Works Manager, 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 Rural Municipality.