

Order No. 52/24

**ORDER RESPECTING
THE TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH
WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY
REQUEST TO REVIEW AND VARY
BOARD ORDER NO. 58/23
DISCONTINUE BILLING ON PROPERTY TAX BILLS**

APRIL 30, 2024

**BEFORE: Shawn McCutcheon, Panel Chair
Marilyn Kapitany, B.Sc. (Hon), M. Sc., Panel Member**

1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves the Town of Winnipeg Beach's (Town) request to vary Schedule A, clause 3 of the Utility By-law to allow for the billing of Local Improvement District (LID) No. 3 customers by way of a Utility Bill.

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

2.0 Background

This Board Order is best read in conjunction with Board Order No. 58/23.

3.0 Application

On April 26, 2024, the Town submitted a request that the Board review its decision made in Board Order No. 58/23 and allow the Town to vary Schedule A to discontinue the billing of LID No. 3 customers on property tax bills. This request was accompanied by Council Resolution No. 2024/159 supporting the request to the Board.

Schedule A of Board Order No. 58/23, clause 3 reads, “All accounts shall be billed annually on the property tax bill and shall be based on equivalent units as set out below.”

The Town also advised the Board due to the existing clause and the timing of Board Order No. 58/23, it has been unable to bill the customers of LID No. 3 for the rate increase approved effective April 1, 2023. The Town has indicated if the Board grants approval to vary the clause, it will bill these customers a prorated charge for the April 1, 2023 increase. The Town provided the following calculations:

Equivalent Units	Service Charge	Wastewater Only	Total Annual Bill	Prorated as at April 1, 2023	Prorated as at Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2023	Total Annual Bill	Paid	2023 Bill Amount Due
1	\$ 16.75	\$ 163.81	\$ 180.56	\$ 135.42	\$ 23.71	\$ 159.13	\$ 94.82	\$ 64.31
2	\$ 16.75	\$ 327.62	\$ 344.37	\$ 258.28	\$ 44.71	\$ 302.99	\$ 178.84	\$ 124.15
3	\$ 16.75	\$ 491.43	\$ 508.18	\$ 381.14	\$ 65.72	\$ 446.85	\$ 262.86	\$ 183.99
6	\$ 16.75	\$ 982.86	\$ 999.61	\$ 749.71	\$ 128.73	\$ 878.44	\$ 514.92	\$ 363.52
15	\$ 16.75	\$ 2,457.15	\$ 2,473.90	\$ 1,855.43	\$ 317.78	\$ 2,173.20	\$ 1,271.10	\$ 902.10
20	\$ 16.75	\$ 3,276.20	\$ 3,292.95	\$ 2,469.71	\$ 422.80	\$ 2,892.51	\$ 1,691.20	\$ 1,201.31
32	\$ 16.75	\$ 5,241.92	\$ 5,258.67	\$ 3,944.00	\$ 674.86	\$ 4,618.86	\$ 2,699.44	\$ 1,919.42

4.0 Board Findings

The Board has reviewed the Town's request and finds the request to discontinue the billing of LID No. 3 customers on property tax bills to be in alignment with the Board's longstanding practice of recommending that Utility bills be separate from property tax bills.

The Board grants approval to revise the by-law to exclude mention of property taxes, as follows: "All accounts shall be billed annual based on equivalent units as set out below."

The Town will be required to revise its Utility By-law as approved in this Order, and should provide a copy to the Board once it has received third and final reading.

The Board will direct the Town to provide Notice of the 2023 billing adjustment to the affected customers, with a copy to the Board. The Board recommends the Town accommodate reasonable requests to for flexibility in payment deadlines, particularly for those customers with multiple residential equivalency units facing significant Utility bills, given the delay in notifying these customers and providing the billing.

Board Order No. 58/23 directed the Town to review the financial position of the Utility and submit either a statement of rate adequacy or an application for revised rates on or before December 31, 2024. This directive remains in force and must be complied with.

The Board reminds the Town regular reviews are important for a financially sound utility and encourages the Town to review the Simplified Rate Application Process for municipally owned public utilities. If, after its rate review, the Town finds it meets the designated criteria for a simplified rate application, it should apply for future rates using the Simplified Rate Application Process.

5.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The request by the Town of Winnipeg Beach, Water and Wastewater Utility, to discontinue the billing of LID No. 3 customers on property tax bills as found in Clause 3 of Schedule A in Board Order No. 58/23 BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED effective April 1, 2023.
2. The Town of Winnipeg Beach notify its customers in LID No. 3 of the adjustment to 2023 utility bills as soon as possible, with a copy to the Public Utilities Board.
3. The Town of Winnipeg Beach revise its Utility By-law to reflect the changes in this Order and submit to the Public Utilities Board once it has received third and final reading.

Fees payable upon this Order – \$150.00

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.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

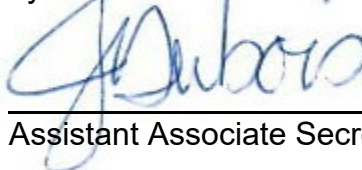
"Shawn McCutcheon"

Panel Chair

"Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA"

Assistant Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 52/24 issued
by The Public Utilities Board



Assistant Associate Secretary