

**Order No. 54/24**

**MUNICIPALITY OF WESTLAKE-GLADSTONE  
AMALGAMATION OF THE LANGRUTH WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY AND  
THE YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL WATER UTILITY  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024  
REVISED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES  
EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2024, DECEMBER 1, 2024, DECEMBER 1, 2025, AND  
DECEMBER 1, 2026**

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**MAY 6, 2024**

**Revised May 7, 2024**

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

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves the amalgamation of the Langruth Water and Wastewater Utility (Langruth) and the Yellowhead Regional Water Utility (Yellowhead), to be known as the Yellowhead Regional Water and Wastewater Utility, effective January 1, 2024.

The Board approves the water and wastewater rates as applied for by the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone (Municipality) for the amalgamated Yellowhead Regional Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility), but varies the effective dates to June 1, 2024, December 1, 2024, December 1, 2025, and December 1, 2026.

The approved rates are as follows:

	June 1, 2024	December 1, 2024	December 1, 2025	December 1, 2026
Quarterly Service Charge	\$15.91	\$15.86	\$15.81	\$15.76
Water (per cubic meter)	\$3.23	\$3.38	\$3.53	\$3.66
Wastewater (per cubic meter)	\$0.72	\$0.65	\$0.58	\$0.49
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$71.21	\$72.28	\$73.35	\$73.86
Deficit Rate Rider (per cubic meter)**	\$3.51	-	-	-
Bulk Water Rate (per cubic meter)	\$5.25	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$5.75
Reconnection Fee	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Hydrant Charge	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Wastewater Tipping Fee (annual)	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00

\*Based on 14 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

On June 15, 2016, the Board approved revised rates for Langruth, effective July 1, 2016, January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2018 in Board Order No. 78/16.

On September 16, 2021, the Board approved revised rates for Yellowhead using the Board's Simplified Rate Application Process, effective December 1, 2021 in Board Order No. 99/21.

Board Order No. 101/21 approved pass through authority for Yellowhead to pass through future water rate increases from the Yellowhead Regional Co-op. Yellowhead passed through rates in By-Laws No. 2021-11 and No. 2022-01.

The Board approved actual operating deficits for Langruth in the amounts of \$49,564 for 2015, \$46,319 for 2016, \$26,517 for 2017, and \$36,578 in 2018 (or a total four-year actual operating deficit of \$158,978), to be recovered through the Langruth's Accumulated Fund Surplus and \$35,672 for 2019, to be recovered by a three-year rate rider of \$1.51 per cubic meter, effective October 1, 2021 for two years and \$1.52 per cubic meter, effective October 1, 2023 for one year in Board Order No. 109/21. The Board also approved an actual operating deficit for Langruth in the amount of \$35,304 for 2020, to be recovered by a two-year rate rider of \$1.99 per cubic meter, effective October 1, 2022. The combined rate riders total \$3.51 and expire September 30, 2024.

### Water Supply/Distribution

Yellowhead receives its water from the Yellowhead Regional Water Coop. A \$4.9 million expansion project began in 2023 to connect Langruth customers to Yellowhead and is expected to be completed some time in 2024. As part of the expansion project, the Langruth water treatment plant will be converted to a reservoir. The plant conversion costs have been included in the total cost of the expansion project.

## **Wastewater Collection/Treatment**

Langruth is a low gravity wastewater system. The lagoon has two cells and discharges one mile east of the lagoon into a ditch once all samples pass testing requirements.

## **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.

The unaccounted for water for Langruth was 5% and Yellowhead was 10% in 2022, which falls within acceptable industry standards.

## **3.0 Application**

On May 17, 2023, the Municipality applied to amalgamate the Langruth Water and Wastewater Utility and the Yellowhead Regional Water Utility and for revised water and wastewater rates for the amalgamated Utility, to be effective December 1, 2023, December 1, 2024, December 1, 2025, and December 1, 2026 as set out in By-Law No. 2023-03, read for the first time on March 15, 2023. The application was supported by a rate study prepared by the Municipality's consultant.

The Municipality's request to amalgamate the Utilities is to create economies of scale and reduce water costs for customers.

The Municipality also applied for the recovery of a 2021 actual operating deficit of \$54,608, when calculated for regulatory purposes, incurred by Langruth to be recovered from future accumulated fund surplus funds.

A Public Notice of Application was issued on May 29, 2023 allowing for any questions or comments with respect to the proposed rate increases to the Board and/or the RM on or before June 2, 2023. The Board did not receive any responses to the Notice.

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 Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone Yellowhead Regional Water and Wastewater Utility 2024 to 2027 Budget Forecasts (\$)</b>				
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
	<b>Forecast</b>			
<b>General Expenses</b>				
Administration	21,597	22,244	22,912	23,599
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<b>21,597</b>	<b>22,244</b>	<b>22,912</b>	<b>23,599</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Penalties	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Other Income	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
<b>Total General Revenues</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>3,050</b>
<b>Net Costs General</b>	<b>18,547</b>	<b>19,194</b>	<b>19,862</b>	<b>20,549</b>
<b>Water Expenses</b>				
Purification and Treatment	4,244	4,371	4,502	4,637

	Water Purchases	228,755	228,755	228,755	228,755
	Transmission and Distribution	11,670	12,020	12,381	12,752
	Service of Supply	42,966	44,255	45,583	46,951
	Other Water Supply Costs	11,935	12,293	12,662	13,042
	Amortization	258,435	258,076	256,997	256,997
	Interest on Long-Term Debt	75,472	71,167	66,636	61,868
	Contingency	26,093	26,093	26,093	26,093
	<b>Total Water Expenses</b>	<b>659,570</b>	<b>657,030</b>	<b>655,609</b>	<b>651,095</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
	Bulk Water Fees	6,556	6,842	6,867	7,152
	Hydrant Rentals (7)	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
	Other Income	37,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
	<b>Total Water Revenue</b>	<b>44,606</b>	<b>44,892</b>	<b>44,917</b>	<b>45,202</b>
	<b>Net Water Costs</b>	<b>614,964</b>	<b>612,138</b>	<b>610,692</b>	<b>605,893</b>
<b>Wastewater Expenses</b>					
	Collection System	2,122	2,185	2,251	2,319
	Treatment and Disposal	530	546	563	580
	Amortization	8,793	6,114	4,200	4,200
	Contingency	192	192	192	192
	<b>Total Wastewater Expenses</b>	<b>11,637</b>	<b>9,037</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>7,291</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
	Lagoon Tipping Fees	975	975	975	975
	<b>Total Wastewater Revenue</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>975</b>
	<b>Net Wastewater Costs</b>	<b>10,662</b>	<b>8,062</b>	<b>6,231</b>	<b>6,316</b>
	<b>Net Operating Costs</b>	<b>644,173</b>	<b>639,394</b>	<b>636,785</b>	<b>632,758</b>

The Municipality is requesting revised rates to provide for increased water purchase costs from the Yellowhead Regional Co-op for new customer connections, increased interest expenses for debentures for the Yellowhead Regional Expansion Project, and a contingency allowance.

### 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 Municipality has included a contingency allowance of \$26,093 per year for water and \$192 for wastewater or a total contingency allowance of \$26,285 per year.

The Municipality has not included a reserve allowance in its forecasts. The rate study notes, the existing Utility reserves and forecasted increases should be sufficient to provide funding for anticipated capital projects in the future.

The Rate Study also notes the Municipality's five-year capital plan includes 2023 capital projects of \$4.9 million for the Yellowhead Regional Utility Water Expansion Project, to be funded by \$3.0 million in grants, \$1.3 million in debenture debt, and \$615,000 from existing municipal reserves.

### 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 2022 Audited Financial Statements, the most recent information available, the working capital surplus/deficit for the Utilities at December 31, 2022 was:

2022	Langruth Utility	Yellowhead Utility	Total
Utility Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$690,722*	\$4,859,740	\$5,550,462
Deduct: Tangible Capital Assets	(786,376)	(5,471,010)	(6,257,386)
Add: Long-Term Debt	38,491	522,256	560,747
Add: Utility Reserves	4,984	429,143	434,127
<b>Equals Working Capital Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(52,179)</b>	<b>\$340,129</b>	<b>\$287,950</b>
Operating Expenses	124,742	393,566	518,308
<b>20% of Operating Expenses (Target)</b>	<b>\$24,948</b>	<b>\$78,714</b>	<b>\$103,662</b>

\*Note – Includes \$3,000,200 in Manitoba Water Service Board (MWSB) grant funding received in April 2022 and held in the Municipality's Rural Water Project Reserve. To be transferred to the Utility upon completion of the Yellowhead Regional Utility Water Expansion Project due to the timing of the project completion.

The working capital meets the Board requirement.



## 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 Municipality’s allocation plan for shared costs is as follows:

<b>Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone                      Yellowhead Regional Water and Wastewater Utility                      Allocation Plan for Non-Direct Shared Services (see Note 1)                      as at March, 2023</b>			
Category	Sub-category	Options	
1.0	Administrative Staff		1.75% 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 part of admin. staff allocation
	1.2 Accounting/ auditing/ including bylaw making and enforcement.		1.75% of audit costs
	1.3 Common office space		1.75% of office costs, utilities
	1.4 Office overheads (telephone, photocopier, computer, etc.)		1.75% of printing, postage, and stationary
2.0	Operating, construction and maintenance costs		
	2.1 Vehicle – fuel, maintenance, lease costs, capital costs		No vehicle fuel or maintenance costs are being charged to the Utility.
	2.2 Labor – full time, part time, on call, sick time, vacation (see Note 2)		Public Works and Utility staff are on time sheets

			and time spent is charged to the Utility.
	2.3 Public works building and property.		Costs that could be charged to the Utility are minimal and nothing is currently allocated to the Utility.
	2.4 Road repairs and alike (see Note 3)		Based on actual costs
3.0 Major projects			
	Interest/ financing		Debenture Debt
	Labour		Based on actual costs
	External costs		Direct charge (dedicated consulting)

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 Municipality's application to amalgamate the Langruth Water and Wastewater Utility and the Yellowhead Regional Water Utility and notes there were no reported stakeholder concerns regarding the amalgamation. The Board approves the amalgamation of the Utilities effective June 1, 2024, to be known as the Yellowhead Regional Water and Wastewater Utility.

The Board has reviewed the Municipality's application for revised rates and the projections presented by the Municipality in its rate application and notes the calculations used to formulate the Utility's rates are not consistent with Public Utilities Board Guidelines, but instead have been designed to phase-in rates to mitigate rate-shock and high year-over-year rate increases.

The Board notes, the rates forecasted in the Municipality's rate study include a wholesale water rate purchase cost as at April 1, 2023 of \$2.34 per cubic meter.

The Board approves the rates as applied for, but varies the effective dates to June 1, 2024, December 1, 2024, December 1, 2025, and December 1, 2026.

The Board has also reviewed the Municipality's application for the recovery of a 2021 actual operating deficit of \$54,608, when calculated for regulatory purposes, incurred by Langruth to be recovered from future accumulated fund surplus funds. The Board notes, the Municipality's consultant is forecasting the deficit amounts and rate riders previously approved by the Board for Langruth (as noted in the background section of the Order) will result in a sufficient surplus to be able to fully recover the 2021 \$54,608 actual operating deficit at their conclusion on September 30, 2024. The Board therefore finds the recovery methodology reasonable.

The Board approves the actual operating deficit in the amount of \$54,608 for 2021, when calculated for regulatory purposes, incurred by the Langruth Water and Wastewater Utility to be recovered from future accumulated fund surplus funds.

The Board approves the revised cost allocation methodology and reminds the Municipality the methodology must be used consistently, and that changes to the new, revised cost allocation methodology require Board approval.

The Board requires the Municipality to review the water and wastewater rates for the new, Yellowhead Regional Water and Wastewater Utility for adequacy and file a report with the Board or submit an application for revised rates on or before April 1, 2026.

## 5.0 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The amalgamation of the Langruth Water and Wastewater Utility and the Yellowhead Regional Water Utility, now known as the Yellowhead Regional Water and Wastewater Utility, is HEREBY APPROVED effective January 1, 2024.
2. The revised water and wastewater rates for the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone, Yellowhead Regional Water and Wastewater Utility, BE AND ARE HEREBY VARIED in accordance with the attached Schedule A, effective June 1, 2024, December 1, 2024, December 1, 2025, and December 1, 2026.
3. The Shared Cost Allocation Methodology for the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED.
4. The Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone 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.
5. The Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone 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 Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone review its water and wastewater rates for the Yellowhead Regional 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 July 1, 2027.
7. The actual operating deficit, when calculated for regulatory purposes, in the amount of \$54,608 for 2021 incurred by the Langruth Water and Wastewater Utility is HEREBY APPROVED to be recovered from future accumulated fund surplus.

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

"Shawn McCutcheon"  
Panel Chair

"Frederick Mykytyshyn"  
Assistant Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No.54/24  
issued by The Public Utilities Board

  
Assistant Associate Secretary

## SCHEDULE A

### MUNICIPALITY OF WESTLAKE-GLADSTONE YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY

**1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charges June 1, 2024**

Quarterly Service Charge \$15.91

Commodity Rates	<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>	<u>Langruth Rate Rider</u>
Per Cubic Meter	\$3.23	\$0.72	\$3.95	\$3.51

**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 Only Total Quarterly Minimum</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum</u>	<u>Langruth Rate Rider</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum with Rate Rider</u>
5/8 inch	1	14	\$15.91	\$45.22	\$10.08	\$61.13	\$71.21	\$49.14	\$120.35
3/4 inch	2	28	\$15.91	\$90.44	\$20.16	\$106.35	\$126.51	\$98.28	\$224.79
1 inch	4	56	\$15.91	\$180.88	\$40.32	\$196.79	\$237.11	\$196.56	\$433.67
1 1/2 inch	10	140	\$15.91	\$452.20	\$100.80	\$468.11	\$568.91	\$491.40	\$1,060.31
2 inch	25	350	\$15.91	\$1,130.50	\$252.00	\$1,146.41	\$1,398.41	\$1,228.50	\$2,626.91

**3. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Utility shall be charged at the rate of \$5.25 per Cubic Meter.

**1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charges December 1, 2024**

Quarterly Service Charge \$15.86

Commodity Rates	<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water &amp; Wastewater</u>
Per Cubic Meter	\$3.38	\$0.65	\$4.03

**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 Only Total Quarterly Minimum	Water & Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum
5/8 inch	1	14	\$15.86	\$47.32	\$9.10	\$63.18	\$72.28
3/4 inch	2	28	\$15.86	\$94.64	\$18.20	\$110.50	\$128.70
1 inch	4	56	\$15.86	\$189.28	\$36.40	\$205.14	\$241.54
1 1/2 inch	10	140	\$15.86	\$473.20	\$91.00	\$489.06	\$580.06
2 inch	25	350	\$15.86	\$1,183.00	\$227.50	\$1,198.86	\$1,426.36

**3. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Utility shall be charged at the rate of \$5.50 per Cubic Meter

**1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charges **December 1, 2025****

Quarterly Service Charge      \$15.81

Commodity Rates Per Cubic Meter	Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
	\$3.53	\$0.58	\$4.11

**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 Only Total Quarterly Minimum	Water & Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum
5/8 inch	1	14	\$15.81	\$49.42	\$8.12	\$65.23	\$73.35
3/4 inch	2	28	\$15.81	\$98.84	\$16.24	\$114.65	\$130.89
1 inch	4	56	\$15.81	\$197.68	\$32.48	\$213.49	\$245.97
1 1/2 inch	10	140	\$15.81	\$494.20	\$81.20	\$510.01	\$591.21
2 inch	25	350	\$15.81	\$1,235.50	\$203.00	\$1,251.31	\$1,454.31

**3. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Utility shall be charged at the rate of \$5.50 per Cubic Meter.

**1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charges      December 1, 2026**

Quarterly Service Charge      \$15.76

Commodity Rates	Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
Per Cubic Meter	\$3.66	\$0.49	\$4.15

**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 Only Total Quarterly Minimum	Water & Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum
3/4 inch	2	28	\$15.76	\$102.48	\$13.72	\$118.24	\$131.96
1 inch	4	56	\$15.76	\$204.96	\$27.44	\$220.72	\$248.16
1 1/2 inch	10	140	\$15.76	\$512.40	\$68.60	\$528.16	\$596.76
2 inch	25	350	\$15.76	\$1,281.00	\$171.50	\$1,296.76	\$1,468.26

**3. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Utility shall be charged at the rate of \$5.75 per Cubic Meter.

**The following clauses take effect June 1, 2024:**

**1. Billings And Penalties**

Accounts shall be billed quarterly and the due date shall be at least 14 days after the date of billing. A late payment charge of 1.25%, compounded monthly, shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date.

**2. 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.



### **3. 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.

### **4. 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 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 \$50.00 and all arrears and penalties, if any, have been paid.

### **5. 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 \$100.00. 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. 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.

### **6. Meter Change**

A customer may, upon successful application to Council, be granted a change in water meter size so as to more accurately reflect the required consumption of water throughout the year. All costs associated with the change in meter will be borne by the customer.

If, for any reason, the same customer applies for a reversal of the water meter back to the original size, all costs associated with the reversal shall be borne by the customer, along with a \$25.00 reversal fee.

### **7. 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.

## **8. 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.

## **9. Service To Customers Outside Municipality's Limits**

The Council of the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone may sign Agreements with customers for the provision of water and wastewater services to properties located outside the legal 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 these boundaries. In addition, all costs of connecting to the Utility's mains, and installing and maintaining service connections, will be paid by the customer.

## **10. Water Allowance Due To Line Freezing**

That in any case where, at the request of Council, 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.

## **11. Hydrant Charges**

The Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone will pay to the utility an annual rental of \$150.00 for each hydrant connected to the system.

## **12. Wastewater Tipping Fees**

All Septic Service Companies discharging wastewater into Plumas or Langruth wastewater lagoons shall be charged a fee of \$650.00 per year.

**13. 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.

**14. 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.

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

The Utility Operator in Charge, or other employee authorized by the Municipality in the absence of the Utility Operator in Charge, shall be authorized to enter upon any remise 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.