

**Order No. 90/21**

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BROKENHEAD  
LOCAL URBAN DISTRICT OF TYNDALL-GARSON WATER AND WASTEWATER  
UTILITY REVISED RATES**

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**August 17, 2021**

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

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves the revised water and wastewater rates for the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead (RM), Local Urban District of Tyndall-Garson Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility). The Board varies the effective dates to October 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023.

The approved rates are as follows:

	<b>Current Rates</b>	<b>October 1, 2021</b>	<b>January 1, 2022</b>	<b>January 1, 2023</b>
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 15.45	\$ 19.22	\$ 22.99	\$ 26.75
Water (per cubic meter)	\$ 2.95	\$ 2.93	\$ 2.91	\$ 2.90
Wastewater (per cubic meter)	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.70
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$ 62.63	\$ 67.38	\$ 72.13	\$ 77.15
Minimum Quarterly Charge - Wastewater Only**	\$ 55.35	\$ 55.35	\$ 55.35	\$ 63.85
Treated Bulk Water (per cubic meter)	\$ 3.06	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
Lagoon Tipping Fee (standard truck load)	\$ 15.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 25.00
Lagoon Tipping Fee (tandem truck load)	\$ 30.00	\$ 36.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 50.00
Hydrant Rental	\$106.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00

\*Based on 14 cubic meters

\*\*Current rates are based on 95 cubic meters. October 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022 rates remain the same as the current rates. January 1, 2023 rates are based on 53 cubic meters.

The Board approves an annual transfer of \$20,000 per year, to be collected from property taxes of rural area-at-large constituents of the RM, and transferred from the RM's General Operating Fund to the Tyndall Lagoon Reserve.

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 670 water and wastewater customers and 25 wastewater only customers (or a total of 695 customers). Rates were last approved for the Utility in 2013 in Board Order No. 26/13, with the last rate increase occurring in 2015.

The RM last had a deficit approved for 2009 in Board Order No. 71/11, allowing \$67,208 to be recovered by the Utility's accumulated surplus fund.

### **Water Supply/Distribution**

The water treatment plant, reservoir, and distribution system were constructed in 2005. The water lines are composed of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and dimension ration (DR) 17 polyethylene. The raw water source is raw water from wells.

### **Wastewater Collection/Treatment**

The wastewater system lift station and wastewater lines were constructed in 2005. The original lagoon was decommissioned and a new lagoon and collection system were also constructed in 2005. The lagoon is composed of six cells, two primary cells and four secondary cells. The wastewater lines are composed of DR 17 polyethylene.

### **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 noted in the RM's rate study was 12% in 2018 and 9% in 2019.

## **3.0 Application**

On July 14, 2020, the RM applied for revised water and wastewater rates, to be effective for January 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023 as outlined in By-Law No. 2216-20 having had first reading June 9, 2020 and second reading January 26, 2021 to add minimum charges per quarter for 3", 4", and 6" water meters. The application was supported by a rate study prepared by the RM's consultant.

A Public Notice of Application was issued on July 21, 2020 allowing for any questions or comments with respect to the proposed rate increases to the Board and/or the RM on or

before August 20, 2020. One response to the Notice was received with respect to the magnitude of the proposed rate increases.

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 2% in all calculations:

<b>Schedule of Utility Rate Requirements Rural Municipality of Brokenhead Local Urban District of Tyndall-Garson Water and Wastewater Utility 2021 to 2023 Budget Forecasts (\$)</b>			
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Forecast</b>		
<b>General Expenses</b>			
Administration	70,470	71,880	73,317
Training	3,570	3,641	3,714
Total General Expenses	74,040	75,521	77,031
<b>Revenue</b>			
Penalties	2,550	2,601	2,653
Total General Revenues	2,550	2,601	2,653
<b>Net Costs General</b>	<b>71,490</b>	<b>72,920</b>	<b>74,378</b>

<b>Water Expenses</b>				
	Purification and Treatment	136,977	139,717	172,511
	Transmission and Distribution	105,063	107,164	109,308
	Amortization	166,457	166,457	165,820
	Interest on Long-Term Debt	28,656	23,642	18,363
	Reserve	8,500	8,500	8,500
	Contingency	26,004	26,004	26,004
	<b>Total Water Expenses</b>	<b>471,657</b>	<b>471,484</b>	<b>500,546</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
	Connection Fees	3,500	3,500	3,500
	Hydrant Rentals (97 hydrants)	10,282*	10,282*	10,282*
	Bulk Water Fees	8,000	8,000	8,000
	<b>Total Water Revenue</b>	<b>21,782</b>	<b>21,782</b>	<b>21,782</b>
	<b>Net Water Costs</b>	<b>449,875</b>	<b>449,702</b>	<b>478,764</b>
<b>Wastewater Expenses</b>				
	Collection System	20,855	21,272	21,698
	Treatment and Disposal	83,993	85,673	87,386
	Lift Station	12,444	12,693	12,947
	Amortization	210,854	210,854	210,217
	Interest on Long-Term Debt	34,452	28,672	22,597
	Reserve	1,500	1,500	1,500
	Contingency	4,423	4,423	4,423
	<b>Total Wastewater Expenses</b>	<b>367,521</b>	<b>365,087</b>	<b>360,768</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
	Rural Area Property Tax Transfer**	-	-	-
	Tipping Fees	\$41,933	\$49,867	\$57,800
	<b>Total Wastewater Revenues</b>	<b>\$41,933</b>	<b>\$49,867</b>	<b>\$57,800</b>
	<b>Net Wastewater Costs</b>	<b>325,588</b>	<b>315,220</b>	<b>302,968</b>
	<b>Net Operating Costs</b>	<b>846,953</b>	<b>837,842</b>	<b>856,110</b>

\*Amount used based on former rental rate of \$106.00 per hydrant and should be based on the new rental rate of \$120.00 per hydrant or total annual revenue of \$11,640.

\*\*Proposed annual transfer of \$20,000 from taxes collected from rural RM constituents not connected to the system to the Tyndall Lagoon Reserve. Transfer not included in utility rates, but will be from the RM General Fund from the noted taxes collected.

The proposed Utility rate increases are requested to incorporate a 10% contingency, an annual transfer to the utility reserve, and increases in water operating 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 a contingency allowance of \$26,004 for water and \$4,423 for wastewater (or a total contingency allowance of \$30,427) in its application.

The RM has included an annual reserve allowance of \$8,500 for water and \$1,500 for wastewater in its application. The RM has also included an annual transfer of \$20,000 from taxes collected from rural RM constituents not connected to the system to the Tyndall Lagoon Reserve.

The RM is also planning to withdraw \$500,000 from its Utility Reserve for a new raw water well in 2022.

## 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 2019 Audited Financial Statements, the most recent information available, the working capital deficit for the Utility at December 31, 2019 was:

	2019
Utility Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$9,802,204
Deduct: Tangible Capital Assets	(11,553,380)
Add: Long-Term Debt	1,434,503
Add: Utility Reserves	832,263
<b>Equals Working Capital Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$515,590</b>
Operating Expenses	791,447
<b>20% of Operating Expenses (Target)</b>	<b>\$158,289</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 Brokenhead Local Urban District of Tyndall-Garson Water and Wastewater Utility Allocation Plan for Non-Direct Shared Services (see Note 1) as at May 2020</b>			
Category	Sub-category	Options	
1.0 Administrative Staff			8% of General Legislative expenses, excluding assessment and grant expenses
	1.1 Billing services –meter reading to receipting and collection.		Meter reading – N/A Receipting and collection part of administrative staff allocation
	1.2 Accounting/ auditing/ including bylaw making and enforcement.		8% of audit costs
	1.3 Common office space		8% of office costs
	1.4 Office overheads (telephone, photocopier, computer, etc.)		8% of printing, postage, and stationary
<b>2.0 Operating, construction and maintenance costs</b>			
	2.1 Vehicle – fuel, maintenance, lease costs, capital costs		The Utility has its own vehicles and pays for fuel and repairs accordingly
	2.2 Labor – full time, part time, on call, sick time, vacation (see Note 2)		Utility operator time is tracked on timesheets and charged to the Utility accordingly



	2.3 Public works building and property.	Costs that could be charged to the Utility are minimal and at present nothing is allocated to the Utility	The is no charge to the Utility for the Public Works Building use
	2.4 Road repairs and alike (see Note 3)	Based on actual costs	-
3.0 Major projects			
	Interest/ financing		N/A
	Labor	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 (eg. Re-constructing 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 in its 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 October 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023 to coincide with the Utility's billing schedule.

The Board notes the minor error in the calculation hydrant rental revenues included in the utility forecasts and finds the difference to be immaterial to the rate calculation(s).

The Board notes, however, the rate study includes a transfer of \$20,000 per year to the Tyndall Lagoon Reserve. These funds are collected from property taxes of rural area constituents of the RM who are not connected to the system and then transferred from the RM's General Operating Fund to the Tyndall Lagoon Reserve, but is not recorded in the Utility Operating Fund as revenue.

In Board Order No. 150/06, the Board noted the RM was building a reserve fund for future capital replacements and has also proposed a special annual assessment totalling \$15,000 on rural residents neither connected nor part of the Local Improvement District, and found it

to be reasonable. The Board has been advised, in 2016 the RM's council increased the amount/transfer to \$20,000.

The Board notes, *The Public Utilities Board Act* states:

82(1)(b) No owner of a public utility shall without the written authorization of the board and subject to subsection (2), make, impose, exact, or collect, any rate, toll, fare, or charge or any schedule of rates, either individual, or joint, for any product supplied or service rendered by it within the province.

The Board advises the RM, the Board must approve increases to all utility rates, fees, transfers, etc. Pursuant to *The Public Utilities Board Act*, the Board has available enforcement methods and can apply penalties for non-compliance.

The Board has reviewed the proposed transfer to the Tyndall Lagoon Reserve and is concerned the RM does not have specific forecasts and calculations to substantiate the proposed \$20,000 transfer. The Board notes, supporting documentation is imperative to provide transparency to both the Board and to utility customers regarding all fees/rates.

The Board approves an annual transfer of \$20,000 per year, to be collected from property taxes of rural area-at-large constituents of the RM, and transferred from the RM's General Operating Fund to the Tyndall Lagoon Reserve. The Board recommends the RM to work with its auditor(s) to ensure the transfer is properly recorded as revenue in the RM's annual Audited Financial Statements, including Schedule 9 – Schedule of Utility Operations. The Board also directs the RM to review the annual \$20,000 transfer and provide specific forecasts and calculations in its next application to the Board for rates, should it want the transfer to continue.

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 notes the Utility has expiring taxation revenues of \$141,335 in 2026 and \$48,525 in 2028 (or a total of \$189,860). The Board reminds the RM to be cognizant of these revenues when reviewing and setting rates. If the RM does not take action to provide for expiring taxation revenues accordingly, upon expiring of these revenues Utility customers will incur large increases to rates all at one time.

The Board notes RM By-Law No. 2079-08 required property owners to connect to the Utility system by December 31, 2009 or the RM would enforce an annual penalty of \$180.00 per year. The Board also notes the Utility continues to charge \$180.00 annually, per building for 21 non-connected buildings.

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, 2023.

The Board notes there has been significant lapses in time between the RM's rate applications. The Board would like to remind the RM that regular reviews are important to maintain a financially sound utility.

The Board has not received the RM's 2020 Audited Financial Statements and reminds the RM audited financial statements are to be reported to the Board no later than June 30 of the following year.

## 5.0 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The revised water and wastewater rates for the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead, Local Urban District of Tyndall-Garson Water and Wastewater Utility, BE AND ARE HEREBY VARIED in accordance with the attached Schedule A, effective October 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023.
2. The Shared Cost Allocation Methodology for the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead BE AND IS HEREBY APPROVED.
3. The Rural Municipality of Brokenhead 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 Brokenhead 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.
5. The Rural Municipality of Brokenhead review its water and wastewater rates for the Local Urban District of Tyndall-Garson 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, 2023.
6. The Rural Municipality of Brokenhead submit its 2020 Audited Financial Statements as soon as possible.

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"

Panel Chair

"Frederick Mykytyshyn"

Assistant Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 90/21  
issued by The Public Utilities Board



Assistant Associate Secretary

## SCHEDULE A

### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BROKENHEAD LOCAL URBAN DISTRICT OF TYNDALL-GARSON WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES BY-LAW NO. 2216-20 SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES

1. Schedule of Commodity Rates &  
Quarterly Service Charge

October 1, 2021

Rates per cubic meter

Cubic Meters per quarter

Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
\$2.93	\$0.51	\$3.44

Quarterly Service Charge \$19.22

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
5/8 inch	1	14	\$19.22	\$41.02	\$7.14	\$67.38
3/4 inch	2	28	\$19.22	\$82.04	\$14.28	\$115.54
1 inch	4	56	\$19.22	\$164.08	\$28.56	\$211.86
1 1/2 inch	10	140	\$19.22	\$410.20	\$71.40	\$500.82
2 inch	25	350	\$19.22	\$1,025.50	\$178.50	\$1,223.22
3 inch	45	614	\$19.22	\$1,799.02	\$313.14	\$2,131.28
4 inch	90	1,227	\$19.22	\$3,595.11	\$625.77	\$4,240.10
6 inch	170	2,319	\$19.22	\$6,794.67	\$1,182.69	\$7,996.58

b) **Wastewater Only for Residential Customers**

The wastewater only charge is \$55.35.

3. Bulk Water

All water sold in bulk shall be charged for a flat rate of \$5.00 per cubic meter.

4. Lagoon Tipping Fee

The lagoon tipping fee shall be \$18.00 for a standard load and \$36.00 for a tandem truck load.

1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charge

**January 1, 2022**

Rates per cubic meter

Cubic Meters per quarter

Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
\$2.91	\$0.60	\$3.51

Quarterly Service Charge \$22.99

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
5/8 inch	1	14	\$22.99	\$40.74	\$8.40	\$72.13
3/4 inch	2	28	\$22.99	\$81.48	\$16.80	\$121.27
1 inch	4	56	\$22.99	\$162.96	\$33.60	\$219.55
1 1/2 inch	10	140	\$22.99	\$407.40	\$84.00	\$514.39
2 inch	25	350	\$22.99	\$1,018.50	\$210.00	\$1,251.49
3 inch	45	614	\$22.99	\$1,786.74	\$368.40	\$2,178.13
4 inch	90	1,227	\$22.99	\$3,570.57	\$736.20	\$4,329.76
6 inch	170	2,319	\$22.99	\$6,748.29	\$1,391.40	\$8,162.68

**b) Wastewater Only for Residential Customers**

The wastewater only charge is \$55.35.

3. Bulk Water

All water sold in bulk shall be charged for a flat rate of \$5.00 per cubic meter.

4. Lagoon Tipping Fee

The lagoon tipping fee shall be \$21.00 for a standard load and \$42.00 for a tandem truck load.

1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charge

**January 1, 2023**

Rates per cubic meter

Cubic Meters per quarter

Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater
\$2.90	\$0.70	\$3.60

Quarterly Service Charge                      \$26.75

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
5/8 inch	1	14	\$26.75	\$40.60	\$9.80	\$77.15
3/4 inch	2	28	\$26.75	\$81.20	\$19.60	\$127.55
1 inch	4	56	\$26.75	\$162.40	\$39.20	\$228.35
1 1/2 inch	10	140	\$26.75	\$406.00	\$98.00	\$530.75
2 inch	25	350	\$26.75	\$1,015.00	\$245.00	\$1,286.75
3 inch	45	614	\$26.75	\$1,780.60	\$429.80	\$2,237.15
4 inch	90	1,227	\$26.75	\$3,558.30	\$858.90	\$4,443.95
6 inch	170	2,319	\$26.75	\$6,725.10	\$1,623.30	\$8,375.15

b) **Wastewater Only for Residential Customers**

The wastewater only charge is based on 53 CM (1.5 \* average quarterly consumption of 35 CM) plus the quarterly customer service charge.

The quarterly charge for wastewater only customers is (53 \* \$0.70) + \$26.75 = \$63.85.

3. Bulk Water

All water sold in bulk shall be charged for a flat rate of \$5.00 per cubic meter.



4. Lagoon Tipping Fee

The lagoon tipping fee shall be \$25.00 for a standard load and \$50.00 for a tandem truck load.

**The following clauses take effect October 1, 2021:**

5. Water and Wastewater Connections

- a. Each customer applying for water turn on or turn off of service during any quarter, shall pay the proportionate part of the current minimum quarterly charge provided that in computing same a broken half month shall be considered as a full month. In all cases any excess water used will be charged at the rates set forth under Commodity Rates.
- b. All costs for new connections and maintenance thereafter shall be paid by the customer or developer, as the case may be, and such connections are to be approved by the Council of the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead.
- c. A service charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be paid before any water is turned on and shall be the responsibility of the owner.

6. Hydrant Charges

The Rural Municipality of Brokenhead shall pay to the Utility an annual hydrant charge of \$120.00 for each hydrant connected to the Utility. This will include the cost of water used for firefighting.

7. Service to Customers Outside Utility's Limits

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead may sign Agreements with customers for the provision of water and wastewater services to properties located outside the boundaries of the RM of Brokenhead LID #1. Such Agreements shall provide for payment of the appropriate rates set out in this Schedule, as well as a surcharge 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's boundaries. In addition, all costs of connecting to the Utility's mains, and installing and maintaining service connections, will be paid by the customer.

8. Billings And Penalties

Accounts shall be billed quarterly based on water used and are payable within 30 days of the billing date. A late payment penalty charge of 1.25% shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date.

#### 9. Disconnection and Reconnection

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.

A customer whose service is disconnected for any reasons, shall not be reconnected until all regulations have been complied with and all arrears paid along with a reconnection fee of \$50.00.

#### 10. Liability for Charges

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

The fee to add outstanding water and wastewater charges to the property tax roll shall be \$30.00 per account.

#### 11. Water Meters

- a. Meters: That all connections be metered. All residential customers for water shall be metered at customer cost. Ownership, inspection and maintenance of meters will remain the responsibility of the Utility. Commercial meter maintenance will be the responsibility of the Utility, but will be billed to the commercial user.
- b. Meter Repairs: Where a water meter is damaged as a result of negligence of a user, such user shall pay the cost of repairing the damaged meter plus a fee of One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be charged for a re-connection of service and the said amount will immediately become a debt due and owing to the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead within ten (10) days of demand of same.
- c. 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. 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 born by the Rural 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 born by the customer and the customer will be billed or refunded any balance owing.

## 12. 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.

## 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 Utility 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.

17. 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 that 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.