

Order No. 133/24

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKWOOD
GUNTON WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY
REVISED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025**

NOVEMBER 15, 2024

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

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1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) varies the revised water rates for the Rural Municipality of Rockwood (RM), Gunton Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility) effective January 1, 2025.

The Board approves rates as follows:

	Current Rates	January 1, 2025
Quarterly Service Charge	\$15.95	\$23.50
Water (per cubic meter)	\$2.75	\$3.00
Wastewater (per cubic meter)	\$2.25	\$2.53
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$90.95	\$106.45
Disconnection/Reconnection Fee	\$50.00	\$100.00
Service Charge for Uncollected Bills	-	\$100.00
Hydrant Rental Charge	\$150.00	\$200.00

*Based on 15 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 operates a water and wastewater utility, servicing 106 customers (as of 2023). Rates were last approved for the Utility in 2012 in Board Order No. 129/12, effective October 2, 2012 with the last rates coming into effect January 1, 2014.

Deficits were last approved for the Utility in Board Order No. 1/24 in the amounts of \$13,992 for 2013, \$14,213 for 2015, \$25,457 for 2016, \$13,218 for 2017, 22,933 for 2019, and \$21,607 for 2018 or a total six-year actual operating deficit of \$111,420, to be recovered from the Utility's Accumulated Fund Surplus. The Board also approved an actual operating deficit of \$31,602 for 2022, to be recovered from the Utility's Accumulated Fund Surplus.

Water Supply and Distribution

The water source for the Gunton Public Water System is supplied by Balmoral Water Utility System. The RM owns and operates water and wastewater utilities serving the communities of Balmoral and Gunton, situated eight kilometers apart. The water and wastewater systems are inextricably interconnected. Balmoral provides a treated water supply and wastewater treatment service to Gunton. Service to Gunton commenced in late 2010.

The Balmoral public water treatment system is pumped from the well to the reverse osmosis membrane in the water treatment plant. The flow is controlled by a level sensor in the reservoir. Anti-scalent is added to the raw water before heading into a five micron polypropylene cartridge prefilter, then into a reverse osmosis unit. After the reverse osmosis unit, ClearHib5 is added for corrosion control, sodium hydroxide is added to adjust pH, and chlorine is added to achieve the desired chlorine residual and contact time in the distribution system. The distribution lines are all composed of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and are all in good condition.

The Balmoral distribution pumping system consists of one jockey pump, one duty pump, and one pump for fire flow. Water is pumped into the distribution system and a separate pump was added to supply water to the Gunton re-chlorination station. The water pressure

leaving the water treatment plant is 414 kilopascals or 60 psi, the distribution lines are all composed of PVC and are in good condition.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The wastewater system is gravity flow with one lift station and two pumps. Wastewater is pumped from the lift station to the Balmoral wastewater treatment lagoon, which is made up of three cells and discharges into Jackfish Creek after testing and is in compliance with the Municipality's Environmental Standards. The collection system lines are made of PVC and are in good condition. No septic hauling is permitted to the Balmoral lagoon.

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 RM's rate study reports unaccounted for water of 5.11% for 2022, which is less than the acceptable percentage.

3.0 Application

On November 14, 2023, the RM applied for revised water and wastewater rates for the Utility.

A Public Notice of Application was issued on November 23, 2023 allowing for any questions or comments with respect to the proposed rate increases to the Board and/or the RM on or before January 8, 2024. There were no responses to the Notice.

The RM's requested, revised quarterly service charge is based on a non-compounded inflationary increase of 3.0% per year (since the rates were last approved in 2014) for 2023 and an inflationary increase of 6.9% for 2024 and 2025. The requested, revised water rate is based an annual, inflationary increase of 3.0% per year for 2023, 2024, and 2025 only

to the 2014 approved rate of \$2.75. The requested, revised wastewater rate is based on the operating expense forecast rate requirements.

The RM has also requested a new service fee of \$100.00 per customer per year for outstanding charges for water and wastewater transferred to property tax bills to provide for administrative expenses, administrative staff, senior staff, and council related costs.

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 RM included the following expenditure forecast and projections in its application that include an annual inflation rate of 3.0% in some of the calculations:

Schedule of Utility Rate Requirements			
Rural Municipality of Rockwood – Gunton Water and Wastewater Utility			
2023 to 2025 Budget Forecasts (\$)			
	2023	2024	2025
	Forecast		
General Expenses			
Administration	9,216	9,492	9,777
Working Capital Surcharge	2,609	2,971	3,032
Total General Expenses	11,825	12,463	12,809
Revenue			

	Penalties	2,240	2,300	2,340
	Total General Revenue	2,240	2,300	2,340
	Net Costs General	9,585	10,163	10,469
Water Expenses				
	Purification and Treatment	5,140	5,294	5,453
	Transmission and Distribution	29,713	30,604	31,523
	Other Water Supply Costs – Transportation	16,114	16,597	17,095
	Connections (Net Loss)	5,500	5,665	5,835
	Amortization	68,996	70,888	72,779
	Interest on Long-Term Debt	16,147	12,316	8,351
	Reserves	2,500	3,000	3,500
	Contingency	3,485	3,590	3,698
	Total Water Expenses	147,595	147,954	148,234
Revenue				
	Connections	3,563	3,607	3,585
	Hydrant Rentals	5,400	5,400	5,400
	Amortization of Capital Grants	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Taxation Revenues	70,781	68,866	66,883
	Other Revenue	12,500	12,500	12,500
	Total Water Revenue	132,244	130,373	128,368
	Net Costs Water	15,351	17,581	19,866
Wastewater Expenses				
	Staffing			
	Collection System	41,211	43,065	44,357
	Lift Station	7,644	7,873	8,110
	Treatment and Disposal	11,355	11,696	12,047
	Amortization	68,997	70,889	72,780
	Reserves	2,500	3,000	3,500
	Contingency	6,021	6,263	6,451
	Total Wastewater Expenses	137,728	142,786	147,245
Revenue				
	Other Revenue	12,500	12,500	12,500
	Connections	3,563	3,988	4,129
	Amortization of Capital Grants	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Taxation Revenue	54,634	56,549	58,532
	Total Wastewater Revenue	110,697	113,037	115,161
	Net Costs Wastewater	27,031	29,749	32,084
	Net Operating Costs	51,967	57,493	62,419

The proposed Utility rate increases are primarily to account for increased costs, inflation, and to provide additional reserve funds.

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 \$2,500 per year for water and \$2,500 per year for wastewater (or a total allowance of \$5,000 per year) in its application.

The RM has included a reserve allowance of 2% of 2021 variable operating costs. The RM advises it is its intention to increase the amount in future years' rate applications to meet the Board recommended amount and a lower amount was chosen in this application to avoid rate shock.

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 2023 Audited Financial Statements, the most recent information available, the working capital surplus for the Utility at December 31, 2023 was:

	2023
Utility Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$4,432,165
Deduct: Tangible Capital Assets	(4,952,929)
Add: Long-Term Debt	651,646
Add: Utility Reserve	-
Equals Working Capital Surplus (Deficit)	\$130,882
Operating Expenses	323,773
20% of Operating Expenses (Target)	\$64,755

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 application states the following:

The Rural Municipality of Rockwood has three utilities in its jurisdiction, all direct and indirect costs will be shared upon all three of these utilities and will be allocated as follows:

Gunton	15%
Balmoral	20%
Stony Mountain	65%

The allocation of percentages of the shared costs are as follows:

RM of Rockwood Utility - Allocation Plan for Shared Costs		
Shared Overhead: Includes all direct and indirect costs realted to the administration of the Utility		
	Category	Percentage
Direct Overhead Costs	Utility Administration	50%
	Billing - receiting and collection	15%
Indirect Overhead Costs- General Administrative Costs and Shared Office Costs	CAO Salary	10%
	Council costs	10%
	Audit & legal	5%
	Office Space	15%
	Telephone - Hydro	15%
	Office supplies / photocopying	15%
Shared Direct Operating Costs: Includes all costs directly attributable to the maintenance and repair of the utility. Public work employees repair and maintain both transportation and utility infrastructure. A portion of the cost for the public works department		
	Category	Percentage
Direct Equipment Costs	Public works buildings- Maintenance	10%
	Vehicles-Fuel / Insurance	5%
	Machinery and equipment	5%
	Road construction and maintenance equipment- Interest / Lease costs / Amortization	5%
Direct Labour	Labour costs directly attributable to the maintenance and repair of utility TCA.	5%
Shared Capital Costs: These shared costs should not be directly charged to utility operations. Capital costs should be capitalized as a tangible capital asset and amortized to utility operations over it useful life. * Includes all costs directly attributable to the development and construction of a tangible capital asset for a utility. Public works project often construct transportation and utility assets at the same time. In these cases a portion of the road work should be allocated to utility TCA based on the relative fair market value of the assets. *The cost of a tangible capital asset can include interest costs on debt directly attributable to the development and construction of a tangible capital asset. Only interest owed to external parties such as banks or debenture holders. Capitalization of interest cost must end when there is no construction or when the asset is put into use.		
	Category	Percentage
Direct Overhead Costs	Administrative	
	Legal fees / Survey Costs	5%
	Design / Engineering Fees	5%
	Interest on Debt	5%
Direct Equipment Costs	Operating Costs	
	Vehicles / Fuel / Insurance	5%
	Equipment / Amortization / Interest	5%
Direct Labour	Labour costs directly attributable to the maintenance and repair of Utility TCA.	5%

4.0 Board Findings

Rate Application

The Board has reviewed the application and the projections presented by the RM in its rate application and notes the RM's rate setting methodology is not consistent with the Board's Guidelines and recommended rate setting methodology.

Based on the Board's analysis of the RM's forecast, the actual operating financial data from the 2023 Audited Financial Statements, and the RM's chosen rates setting methodology the Board is concerned the RM's requested rates may be insufficient to fully provide for the operating costs of the Utility. Given the RM has advised in its rate study it is planning to complete another rate study in 2025 for rates effective January 1, 2026 for the Utility, the Board will approve the rates as requested by the RM effective January 1, 2025, but directs the RM to review the water and wastewater rates for the Utility for adequacy and file a report with the Board, as well as an application for revised rates (if required) on or before August 29, 2025.

The Board directs the RM to use the prior year's audited financial statements and rate setting methodology consistent with the Board's Guidelines in its next rate review/application.

Board Order No. 86/17 requires municipalities to use the prior year's utility audited financial statements to file an application for revised rates with the Board. Audited financial statements are to be reported to the Board no later than June 30 of the following year. At the time the Board received the RM's rate application on November 14, 2023, the RM's application was prepared using the 2021 Audited Financial Statements and not the required 2022 Audited Financial Statements.

The Board finds the RM's requested quarterly service charge for the Utility was calculated using a total rate of inflation of 30% (3.0% per year, not compounded, for a period of 10 years since the last approved rates in 2014), or \$15.95 x 30%, rounded to the nearest dollar for 2023; an inflationary increase of 6.9%, or \$21.00 x 6.9%, rounded to the nearest \$0.50

for 2024 and an inflationary increase of 6.9%, or $\$22.50 \times 6.9\%$, rounded to the nearest dollar for 2025.

The Board finds the RM's requested water rate for the Utility was calculated using an annual inflation rate of 3.0% per year, rounded to the nearest \$0.05 from the last Board approved rate in 2014 of \$2.75.

The Board notes the RM has requested retroactive rates effective January 1, 2023. The Board finds these rates are not just and reasonable. Generally, the Board does not approve retroactive rate increases, as this does not allow the ratepayers the time and opportunity to adjust their consumption to mitigate the increase in costs.

The Board notes the RM has requested a new service fee of \$100.00 per customer per year for outstanding charges for water and wastewater transferred to property tax bills. The Board has reviewed the RM's rationale and calculation for the new service fee and finds it to be reasonable. The Board approves the new service fee effective January 1, 2025 and notes no overdue accounts should be subject to the new service fee prior to this date.

The Board also notes the Utility has taxation revenue for water debt of \$66,883 and \$58,532 for wastewater debt that expires in 2026. 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 increase to rates all at one time.

Duration Between Rate Reviews

The Board notes it has been ten years since the Utility has submitted a rate application to the Board. In the Board's view the period between rate reviews is too long. Regular rate reviews submitted every three years, as per the Board's Guidelines, protect the financial position of the Utility and may reduce the need for significant rate increase in one year. In this case, the deficits incurred by the Utility between 2015 and 2022 may have been reduced or avoided.

It is the Utility's responsibility to review rates and ensure rates are adequate to fully recover the cost of service being provided to its ratepayers. Ratepayers are generally more tolerant of regular, smaller increases. The RM needs to be much more diligent in conducting regular reviews of its revenue requirements.

Deficits

The Board has reviewed the RM's 2023 Audited Financial Statements and notes the Utility may have incurred an actual operating deficit for 2023 and directs the RM to review its 2023 Audit and file a deficit application and recovery methodology if applicable. If the RM did not incur an actual operating deficit, when calculated for regulatory purposes, the Board directs the RM to file a letter or e-mail with Board staff advising no actual operating deficit was incurred for 2023. The Board directs the RM to provide either a deficit application or letter/e-mail by February 3, 2025.

5.0 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The revised water and wastewater rates for the Rural Municipality of Rockwood, Gunton Water and Wastewater Utility, BE AND ARE HEREBY VARIED in accordance with the attached Schedule A, effective January 1, 2025.
2. The Rural Municipality of Rockwood 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.
3. The Rural Municipality of Rockwood 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.
4. The Rural Municipality of Rockwood review its water and wastewater rates for the Gunton 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 August 29, 2025.

5. The Rural Municipality of Rockwood review its 2023 Audited Financial Statements and file either a deficit application or letter/e-mail with the Board by February 3, 2025.

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.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$500.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"Marilyn Kapitany" _____

Panel Chair

"Frederick Mykytyshyn" _____

Assistant Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 133/24

Issued by The Public Utilities Board



Assistant Associate Secretary

SCHEDULE A
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKWODD
GUNTON WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY
WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES BY-LAW #09/23
SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES

COMMODITY RATES PER CUBIC METRE:

	WATER	WASTEWATER	COMBINED
2025	\$3.00	\$2.53	\$5.53

2. **MINIMUM QUARTERLY RATES:**

Notwithstanding the commodity rates set forth in Paragraph 1 hereof, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges set out below which will include the water allowances indicated:

WATER & WASTEWATER CUSTOMERS:

2025:

Meter Size	Group Capacity Ratio	Minimum Quarterly Volume	Service Charge	Commodity Rates		Minimum Quarterly Charges
				Water	Wastewater	
15 (5/8")	1	15	\$23.50	\$ 45.00	\$37.95	\$106.45
25 (1")	4	60	\$23.50	\$180.00	\$151.80	\$355.30

3. **SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES:**

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Rockwood may sign Agreements with customers for the provision of water and wastewater services to properties located outside the legal boundaries of the Community of Gunton. 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 Community boundaries. In addition, all costs of connecting to the Utility's mains, installing, and maintaining, the customer will pay service connections.

4. **BILLINGS AND PENALTIES:**

Accounts shall be billed quarterly, and the due date shall be at least 14 days after the date on 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 attached hereto as Appendix B, 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.

6. **RECONNECTION:**

Any service disconnected due to non-payment of account shall not be reconnected until all arrears, penalties, and a reconnection fee of \$100.00 have been paid.

Upon written request and payment of the applicable fee to the Rural Municipality of Rockwood as noted hereunder, service may be:

- i) Disconnected - \$100.00
- ii) Removed - \$100.00
- iii) Reconnected - \$100.00

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. Upon doing so, the RM of Rockwood will charge a \$100.00 service fee to the utility account.

8. **HYDRANT CHARGES:**

The Rural Municipality of Rockwood shall pay to the Utility an annual hydrant charge of \$200.00 for each hydrant connected to the System, which includes the cost of water for firefighting.

9. **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.

10. **WATER ALLOWANCE DUE TO LINE FREEZING:**

Where, at the request of Council, a customer is allowed to run water 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 billings for the last two quarters for the same customer, or the same premises if the occupant has changed.

11. **DISCONNECT WATER – NON-EMERGENCY** - \$100.00 per Disconnection

a) **Temporary Disconnection:**

- Renovations; or
- Property Owner is out of town for more than 30 days due to vacation or work.
- Water to be reconnected upon completion of renovations or Property Owner has returned from vacation/work as described in previous paragraph.

Responsibility of Property Owner:

- “Request for temporary disconnection from Utility System at curb stop” Form shall be completed by the Property Owner;
- Fee/cost of \$100.00 to be paid by the Property Owner to the Rural Municipality of Rockwood prior to the Municipality disconnecting the water;
- Property Owner or representative to be present when water is disconnected; and
- The Property Owner shall be responsible for the flat-rate quarterly billings while the water is disconnected

b) **Permanent Disconnection:**

- Due to Demolition/Removal of Building with Property to remain vacant;
- Fee/cost of \$100.00 to be paid by the Property Owner to the Rural Municipality of Rockwood prior to the Municipality disconnecting the water;
- Property Owner or representative to be present when water is disconnected.

Responsibility of Property Owner:

- “Request for permanent disconnection from Utility System at Curb stop” Form shall be completed by the Property Owner;
- Fee/cost of \$100.00 to be paid by the Property Owner to the Rural Municipality of Rockwood prior to the Municipality disconnecting the water;
- Property Owner or representative to be present when water is disconnected;
- The wastewater line must be immediately detached and capped-off at the property line/curb stop with the Property Owner responsible for having this work completed and for all costs involved. The detachment and capping-off of the wastewater line must be inspected and approved by the Municipality.

12. **DISCONNECT WATER - EMERGENCY** - No Charge

- Due to emergency repairs being required to the water and/or wastewater lines on

private property, being between the curb stop and the outside meter on the serviced building;

- Re-connection must take place within 48 hours of the disconnection.

Responsibility of Property Owner:

- “Request for Disconnection from Utility System at Curb stop due to Emergency Repairs” Form shall be completed by the Property Owner prior to the Municipality disconnecting the water; and
- Property Owner or representative to be present when water is disconnected.

13. **RE-CONNECT WATER – NON-EMERGENCY** - \$100.00 per Connection

Responsibility of Property Owner:

- “Request for Re-Connection to Utility System at Curb stop” Form shall be completed by the Property Owner;
- That a fee/cost of \$100.00 to be paid by the Property Owner to the Rural Municipality of Rockwood per re-connect request and inspections;
- Property Owner or representative to be present when water is re-connected.

14. **RE-CONNECT WATER – EMERGENCY** - No Charge

- Water to be re-connected after emergency repairs being completed to the water and/or wastewater lines on private property, being between the curb stop and the outside meter on the serviced building.

Responsibility of Property Owner:

- “Request for Re-connection to Utility System at Curb stop due to Emergency Repairs” Form shall be completed by the Property Owner prior to the Municipality re-connecting the water; and
- Property Owner or representative to be present when water is re-connected; and

15. **Thaw Frozen Water Lines on Private Property** - Actual costs

16. **Installation of Water & Wastewater for New Construction from the Main Line to the Property Line:**

a) **Service Application Information**

- All applicants must fill out the application for service connections as well as pay the fees associated with the application before work is to commence.
- Should any of the costs below be more than the fees collected the Rural Municipality of Rockwood shall invoice the applicant for the balance.

b) Service Fee Information**i) Residential:
Connections****- Fees Associated with connections:**

Permit Fee	\$125.00
Connection Fee	\$8,500.00
Water Meter	\$675.00
Inspection Fee	\$300.00
<u>Restoration Fee</u>	<u>\$950.00</u>
Total	\$10,550.00

**ii) Commercial / Industrial:
Connections****- Fees Associated with connections:**

Permit Fee	\$125.00
Connection Fee	\$8,500.00
Water Meter	\$675.00
Inspection Fee	\$300.00
<u>Restoration Fee</u>	<u>\$950.00</u>
Total	\$10,550.00

**SCHEDULE “B”
TO
BY-LAW #09/23**

SPECIFICATIONS FOR UTILITY HOOK-UPS:

A. WASTEWATER SERVICE PIPE

- certified CSA; PVC PSM SDR 35 / 100mm (4”)

The wastewater piping will be installed in common trench with the water pipe. Where connection takes place onto existing (exterior) piping, the process will be referred to as **connection at the building**. The ground cover of the pipe will be a minimum of six (6) feet; variation to this may only occur at the discretion of the Municipality. To meet the elevation of existing piping and to maintain positive flow characteristics, the installation will, where deemed by the Contractor or directed by the Municipality, include 45 degree long sweep bends or standard (22 ¼ or 45 degree) elbows for grade and alignment.

Where the Contractor is required to terminate the service into the building, the process will be referred to as “entry into building”. In this process, the entry may simply be through a wall opening. In some cases, it may require the Contractor to mine (burrow) under the footing to an existing opening in the basement floor. **Where this process takes place, the pipe under the footing or through the wall will be C.S.A. B181.1 ABS drain waste pipe or C.S.A. B181.2 P.V.C. drain waste pipe. The connection to the SDR 35 pipe shall be a minimum of three (3) feet away from the exterior basement wall. The couplers joining the two pipes shall be Fernco 1056.44 or 1056.66.**

- Main line connections will be by saddle with stainless steel band clamps on Tee’s.
- Bell & Spigot 45 degree long sweep shall be certified C.S.A. for PVC PSM SDR 35 piping
- Bell & Spigot (22 ½ or 45 degree) standard for SDR 35 piping
- Only one (1) wastewater service line to service one (1) building

B. WATER SERVICE PIPE

- O.D. Tubing sizes series 160 HDPE potable water polyethylene C.S.A. certified and factory marked CAS B137.1 / 25mm (1”)
- 25 mm (1”) compression with stainless steel insert to a 25 mm (1”) ball valve

All services to be installed with continuous pipe lengths. Where distances may require joining pipe ends, the use of couplers will adhere to manufacturer’s recommendations for connection to polyethylene tubing. Only brass Mueller compression stainless steel inserts for poly tubing

is approved. At the curb stop, inserts must be used and at valve connections in building.

The installation of water pipe will be in common trench with the wastewater. The pipe will be connected to the existing compression-type end Mueller curb stop at the property line. A minimum cover of 2.43 metre (8 feet) will be maintained up to the “entry into building”.

The Municipality may approve some deviation at the building provided the piping is insulated by an approved insulating material. Rigid 50mm (2”) sm will be a preferred choice. The water and wastewater lines running across the driveway or roadway **MUST** be insulated.

Entry into the building in the case where the wastewater pipe is connected at the building will be through an opening by the Contractor or by others. The pipe will be placed alongside the sewer in the case of wastewater entry into building. **Requirement is for all outside taps to have vacuum breakers on for backflow prevention.**

Only one (1) water service line to service one (1) building

i) **Residential Water Service Line**

Residential water service line shall be 25mm (1”) Series 200 / 160 poly, no copper service line. Each service line shall include a dual check valve connected directly to water meter and have an expansion tank installed on the system after the check valve under wastewater line to curb stop.

ii) **Commercial / Industrial Water Service Line**

Commercial / Industrial water service line shall be 38mm (1 ½”) line size. Series 200 poly (municipal tubing), no copper service line and must have lockable meter by-pass in accordance with MPC / AWWA Specs. Industrial, commercial and institutional buildings will have testable backflow prevention installed. The backflow to be tested each year at property owner’s expense.

iii) **Wastewater Service Line**

Wastewater service line pipe shall be 100mm (4”) SDR 35 bell & spigot.

iv) **Size of Wastewater & Water Lines**

Pending the usage of the building and at the discretion of the Municipality, the size of the wastewater and water lines may be required to be increased. Example: school, commercial building, etc.

D. CURB STOP

All curb stops shall be Mueller compression-type ends, be visible and accessible and clearly marked with 2”x 6” board on 4 sides of curb stop, 1.2 meters (4 feet) above ground and painted

blue so water may be turned on by the Municipality. If not visible, it shall be the property owner's responsibility to make said curb stop visible and accessible at all times. Services boxes to be poly boot only and marked "Water".

Curb stop to be operated by Municipal Utility Department / Designated Officer only.
Curb stops shall not be located in a driveway or pathway.

E. RESTORATION OF CURB STOP

Leaking curb stops will be repaired by the Municipality, including topsoil and grass seed, "only" if the leak is on Municipal property. If the leak is on private property, the Municipality will invoice the property owner for the repairs deemed necessary by the Municipality.

F. BEDDING AND INSTALLATION

- All pipe installations will adhere to manufacturer's recommendations.
- As a minimum requirement, all wastewater pipe will be supported along its entire length by a layer of no less than 100mm (4") in thickness of sand. Sand shall also be placed around and above both wastewater and water pipes by hand shovel and hand-tamped to no less than 200mm (8") above the pipes.

G. INSPECTION

- All work, prior to being covered, is to be inspected by a duly authorized certified representative of the Rural Municipality of Rockwood.
- Twenty-four (24) hours' notice is required for an inspection.