

Order No. 97/24

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSSER
CENTREPORT WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY
PASS THROUGH AUTHORIZATION – WASTEWATER RATES**

August 13, 2024

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

Table of Contents

1.0	Executive Summary.....	3
2.0	Background	4
3.0	Application.....	4
4.0	Board Findings	5
5.0	IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:.....	5
	Schedule A.....	7

1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) grants approval of revised wastewater rates for the Rural Municipality (RM) of Rosser, CentrePort Utility (Utility) effective October 1, 2024.

The revised rates are a result of a rate increase imposed on the Utility by the City of Winnipeg Water and Wastewater Utility (CoW). The Utility has contracted with CoW to provide wastewater treatment services to its ratepayers.

The Utility provides water services, with the current water rates coming into effective April 1, 2024 as a result of a pass through increase from the Cartier Regional Water Coop.

The approved rates are below:

	Oct 1, 2024
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 39.00
Water per cubic meter	\$ 3.44
Wastewater per cubic meter	\$ 4.06
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$ 144.00
Bulk Water Sales per cubic meter	\$ 7.48

*based on 14m³

Details of other rates can be found in Schedule A.

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

2.0 Background

The Utility purchases its water supply from the Cartier Regional Water Cooperative (CRWC). The CRWC is operated by the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB), and the MWSB sets the wholesale water rates for CRWC.

The RM owns and operates a collection system consisting of low-pressure sewers and gravity sewers with lift stations. The system was new in 2020 and collected wastewater from all customers to be discharged to the CoW collections system.

3.0 Application

On May 15, 2024, the Board was contacted by the RM advising the CoW had notified the Utility of a wholesale increase in its sewer rates of \$0.25 per cubic meter. The rate increase was effective April 1, 2024 and the Utility stated it had been notified April 8, 2024.

The RM requested that the Board review and vary the current wastewater rate of \$3.81 per cubic meter and increase it by \$0.25, known as a pass through rate increase. The RM's request acknowledged the need to provide notice to customers and requested an effective date of October 1, 2024.

The Board issued a Public Notice of Application on June 17, 2024, affording customers the opportunity to comment to both the Board and the RM with respect to the proposed rate changes. The Board did not receive any responses to the Notice.

4.0 Board Findings

The Board grants approval of the pass through wastewater rate increase of \$0.25 per cubic meter.

Often, the Board will issue a standing authorization for pass through rate revisions resulting from any changes in the water or wastewater service purchase rates set by other utilities. These standing authorizations are reserved for cases where the selling utility (in this case CoW) is also regulated by the Public Utilities Board, or where rates are set by the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB).

The Board typically does not allow for pass through rate revisions from unregulated utilities because it would not provide ratepayers with the protections afforded by Board oversight and notice requirements. In case of MWSB wholesale rates, under section 8(2) of *The Manitoba Water Services Board Act*, the purchasing utility has the opportunity to appeal to the Board any rate it believes to be excessive and MWSB uses methodology that aligns with the Board's.

The Board notes the Utility's 2022 financial statement indicates a large operating surplus. The Board will therefore direct the RM to file a full rate application on or before June 30, 2025.

The Board directs the Utility to prepare a Notice for its ratepayers, informing them of the decisions in this Order. The Utility is also directed to file with the Board a copy of this Notice and an amended rate By-law, having had third reading.

5.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1) The water and wastewater rates for the Rural Municipality of Rosser – CentrePort Water and Wastewater Utility, BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROVED in accordance with the attached Schedule A, effective October 1, 2024.

- 2) The Rural Municipality of Rosser – CentrePort Water and Wastewater Utility amend its Utility 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
- 3) The Rural Municipality of Rosser – CentrePort Water and Wastewater Utility review the Utility rates for adequacy and file a full rate study with the Public Utilities Board, as well as an application for revised rates (if applicable), on or before June 30, 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. The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

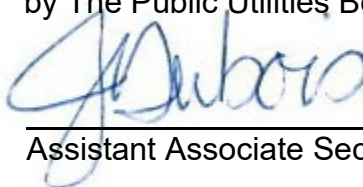
"Irene Hamilton, K.C."

Panel Chair

"Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA"

Assistant Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 97/24 issued
by The Public Utilities Board



Assistant Associate Secretary

Schedule A

SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES:

1. Commodity rates per Cubic Metre

Effective October 1, 2024:

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Wastewater</u>	<u>Water& Wastewater</u>
All Water Consumption	\$3.44	\$4.06	\$7.25

2. Minimum Charges Quarterly:

Notwithstanding the 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.

(a) Water and Wastewater Customers

Effective October 2024:

Meter Size (Inches)	Group Capacity Ratio	Water Included Cubic Meters	Service Charge	Water Rate	Sewer Rate	Minimum Quarterly Charges
15mm (5/8")	1	14	\$39.00	\$48.16	\$56.84	\$144.00
19mm (3/4")	2	27	\$39.00	\$92.88	\$109.62	\$241.50
25mm (1")	4	55	\$39.00	\$189.20	\$223.30	\$451.50
38mm (1-1/2")	10	140	\$39.00	\$481.60	\$568.40	\$1,089.00
50mm (2")	25	341	\$39.00	\$1,173.04	\$1,384.46	\$2,596.50
75mm (3")	45	614	\$39.00	\$2,112.16	\$2,492.84	\$4,644.00
100mm (4")	90	1,227	\$39.00	\$4,220.88	\$4,981.62	\$9,241.50
150mm (6")	170	2,319	\$39.00	\$7,977.36	\$9,415.14	\$17,431.50

3. Bulk Sales Rate

All water sold in bulk by the Utility shall be charged for at the rate of \$7.48 per cubic metre.

4. Billings and Penalties

Accounts shall be billed quarterly based on water used and the due date shall be at least 20 days after the mailing the bills.

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

5. Disconnection

The Public Utilities Board has approved the Conditions Precedent to be followed by the Municipality with respect to the disconnection of service for non-payment. The Conditions Precedent is set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this By-Law

6. Reconnection Fee

Any service disconnected due to non-payment of account shall not be reconnected until all arrears, penalties and a reconnection fee of \$50.00 have been paid.

7. Request for Disconnection and Reconnection Fee

Any customer requesting a service disconnection shall pay a fee of \$50.00 and if the customer requests a reconnection that occurs at another date or time, a reconnection fee of \$50.00 will apply.

8. Outstanding Bills

Pursuant to Section 252(2) of The Municipal Act, the amount of all outstanding charges for water and wastewater service 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.

9. Hydrant Rentals

The Rural Municipality of Rosser shall pay to the Utility an annual hydrant rental of \$150.00 for each hydrant connected to the System.

10. Water Allowance Due to Line Freezing

Where, at the request of the 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.

11. Meter Testing

Any customer wishing to have a meter tested for accuracy will pay in advance a fee of \$125.00, plus any applicable meter testing costs. In the event that the meter tests proves that the meter is recording water flows in excess of actual flows, the meter testing fee and associated costs will be refunded to the customer, and the customer's account will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

12. Water Meters

- (a) The RM shall supply an appropriate size water meter and remote read touch pad at the customer's cost.
- (b) The meter and touch pad shall be installed by a registered plumber and the costs shall be the responsibility of the property owner. The remote touch pad shall always be located at a point easily accessible and approved by the RM.
- (c) The meter shall be installed 75 cm above the floor or as approved by the RM.
- (d) The meter shall be located as close as practical to the point of entry of the water line. Ample room must be provided for access to the meter and main valve at all times.
- (e) The meter shall be in a horizontal position with the main shut off valve immediately before the meter. Another valve shall be installed downstream of the meter before any distribution piping or ports.
- (f) No distribution piping or ports shall be allowed before the meter.
- (g) The meter shall be protected from any type of damage including freezing.
- (h) Costs for any damage and labour for repairs to the water meter and associated equipment shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

13. Service Permit Fee

Any person wishing to install a new water service pipe, reuse or repurpose an existing water service pipe, or abandon a water service pipe must apply for and receive a water

service pipe permit. The cost of the permit includes approval of the plan, inspection of the connection and record keeping.

14. Sewage Surcharges

- (a) There may be levied annually, in addition to 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 wastes.

15. Utility Participation Fee – City of Winnipeg

Every property connecting to the Rosser CentrePort Water and Wastewater Utility shall pay a Utility Participation Fee to the Rural Municipality of Rosser in accordance with the Service Sharing Agreement between the City of Winnipeg and the Rural Municipality of Rosser.