

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION of the **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF RICHMOND**, on behalf of its **Water Utility**, for Approval of an Amendment to its Schedule of Rates for Water and Water Services

BEFORE:  Murray E. Doehler, CPA, CA, P.Eng., Member

ORDER

WHEREAS the current Schedule of Rates for Water and Water Services provided by the Richmond County Water Utility (Utility) was approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (Board) in an Order dated March 30, 2017, effective April 1, 2017, and April 1, 2018;

AND WHEREAS Item 10 of the current Schedule of Rates for Water and Water Services provides:

DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer, for any reason, requests that the water be turned off from any premises, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water, and no additional charge shall be made for turning it on again when this is requested unless such request is after regular working hours of the Utility when a fee of \$150.00 shall apply.

AND WHEREAS in a letter to the Board dated and received December 14, 2017, the Municipality of the County of Richmond, on behalf of the Utility, made an Application to amend the Utility's Schedule of Rates for Water and Water Services to replace Item 10 with the following to clarify the intent of the rate, and to allow the Utility to waive the fees in the event of an emergency:

DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer, for any reason, requests that the water be turned off from any premises, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water. The fee shall be \$150.00 if such a request is made after regular working hours of the Utility. No additional charge shall be made for turning the water on again when requested. The Utility reserves the right to waive the applicable fees in the event of an emergency.

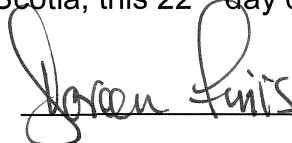
AND WHEREAS the Utility provided additional information with respect to the Application in response to the Board's Information Requests issued December 20, 2017, in which it was stated that the proposed amendment was passed at an open Council meeting on November 27, 2017;

AND WHEREAS the Board has reviewed the Application and the Responses to the Information Requests, and is satisfied that the proposed amendment to Item 10, should be approved;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Schedule of Rates for Water and Water Services, as amended and attached hereto as Schedule "A", is approved effective December 22, 2017;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Schedule of Rates for Water and Water Services, as amended and attached hereto as Schedule "B", is approved effective April 1, 2018;

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 22nd day of December, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

Clerk of the Board

SCHEDULE "A"
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF RICHMOND
WATER UTILITY
SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after 1 April, 2017)

(Amended by Board Order dated December 22, 2017)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

When payment is made after 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill, the rates will include interest charges of 1.5 % per month, or part thereof.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Utility" means the Municipality of the County of Richmond Water Utility.

1. RATES:

(a) Base Charges

Quarterly

Size of Meter

5/8"	34.83
3/4"	51.45
1"	84.70
1.5"	167.81
2"	267.54
3"	533.50
4"	832.70
6"	1,663.81
8"	2,993.60

(b) Consumption Rate (per cubic metre)

\$1.53 per cubic metre

(c) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Municipality of the County of Richmond shall pay to the Water Utility for fire protection services on or before September 30, 2017, the sum of \$152,064.

3. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SERVICE

Each building having a sprinkler system installed shall pay annually for the service as follows:

Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 6" or less in diameter	\$200.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 8" or more in diameter	\$250.00

4. WATER FOR BUILDINGS OR WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Utility may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for the construction of a building or other works. This person shall deposit with the Utility such sum as may be determined by the Utility as is sufficient to defray the cost of making the necessary connection to any water service or main together with the cost of the meter to be installed to measure the water consumed. Upon completion of the work and the return of the meter to the Utility, a refund will be made after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the meter and of testing the same and payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

5. PRIVATE HYDRANT RATES

Per hydrant per year \$200.00.

6. RATES FOR WATER SUPPLIED FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Whenever the use of any fire hydrant is desired for supplying water for any purpose, excepting those of the Fire Department for fire use, the Utility may grant a permit containing such terms and conditions as it may provide, including arrangements regarding supervision of the opening and closing of the hydrant, and a service charge for commercial consumers of \$100.00 for connection and disconnection and a consumption charge for the amount of water used, as estimated by the water utility, at meter consumption rates.

7. CHARGES FOR RE-ESTABLISHING WATER SERVICE

When water service has been suspended for any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Utility, such water service shall not be re-established until a reconnection charge of \$50.00 has been paid to the Utility. If reconnection is outside of regular working hours, the charge is \$150.00.

8. NEW ACCOUNT CREATION FEE

The Utility shall charge a \$50.00 fee for the creation of a water account, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection of the system may have occurred. The fee shall be \$100.00 when

a meter is installed or water is turned on. The fee shall be \$150.00 if this occurs after the normal hours of the Utility.

9. CONNECTION FEE

The Utility shall charge a \$50.00 fee for whenever a customer, for any reason, requests water be turned on at any premises. This fee shall be \$150.00 if water is turned on after regular working hours of the Utility.

10. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer, for any reason, requests that the water be turned off from any premises, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water. The fee shall be \$150.00 if such a request is made after regular working hours of the Utility. No additional charge shall be made for turning the water on again when requested. The Utility reserves the right to waive the applicable fees in the event of an emergency.

11. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Utility may charge a \$25.00 administration fee plus any related bank charges for cheques that, due to non-negotiability, have been rejected by the Utility's bank.

12. CHARGE FOR MISSED APPOINTMENT BY CUSTOMERS

Where an appointment has been made by a customer to have a water service hooked up or a meter inspected, or water turned on to a property, or other visits to the property for the inception or maintenance of water service to the property, and the customer fails to keep the appointment or the plumbing is not completed to allow for installation of a water meter and the Utility's staff have to return to the property, there may be a charge of \$50.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Utility, it is required.

SCHEDULE "B"
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF RICHMOND
WATER UTILITY

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after 1 April, 2018)

(Amended by Board Order dated December 22, 2017)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

When payment is made after 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill, the rates will include interest charges of 1.5 % per month, or part thereof.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Utility" means the Municipality of the County of Richmond Water Utility.

1. **RATES:**

(a) **Base Charges**

Quarterly

Size of Meter

5/8"	38.31
3/4"	56.64
1"	93.32
1.5"	185.00
2"	295.01
3"	588.40
4"	918.45
6"	1,835.26
8"	3,302.17

(b) **Consumption Rate (per cubic metre)**

\$1.67 per cubic metre

(c) **Minimum Bill**

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Municipality of the County of Richmond shall pay to the Water Utility on or before September 30, 2018 the sum of \$147,064.

For subsequent years, the annual public fire protection rate shall be based on the above or:

- (a) the sum of 40.9% of transmission and distribution, taxes and depreciation expenses of the Utility and return on rate base of the immediately preceding year, plus
- (b) 10 % of all other expenses, whichever is the greater.

3. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SERVICE

Each building having a sprinkler system installed shall pay annually for the service as follows:

Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 6" or less in diameter	\$200.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 8" or more in diameter	\$250.00

4. WATER FOR BUILDINGS OR WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Utility may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for the construction of a building or other works. This person shall deposit with the Utility such sum as may be determined by the Utility as is sufficient to defray the cost of making the necessary connection to any water service or main together with the cost of the meter to be installed to measure the water consumed. Upon completion of the work and the return of the meter to the Utility, a refund will be made after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the meter and of testing the same and payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

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