

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 DISTRICT OF EAST HANTS**, on behalf of its **WATER UTILITY**, for Approval of Amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and amendments to its Schedule of Rules and Regulations

ORDER

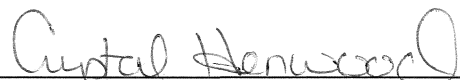
BEFORE:  Jennifer L. Nicholson, CPA, CA, Member

WHEREAS the Municipality of the District of East Hants, on behalf of its Water Utility, made an Application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and amendments to its Schedule of Rules and Regulations;

The Utility requested to add new sizes of meter, and their quarterly charges, to its existing rate to accommodate a new customer. The Board reviewed the application and is satisfied that the proposed amendments should be approved.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Schedule of Rates and Charges, as amended and attached hereto as Schedule "C" be approved for water and water services supplied on and after October 22, 2021;

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 22nd day of October, 2021.


Clerk of the Board



**EAST HANTS WATER UTILITY
 Schedule of Rates and Charges
 For Water and Water Services
 SCHEDULE "C"**

(Effective for water supplied on and after October 22, 2021)

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within twenty (20) days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

An interest rate of 1% per month will be charged to all outstanding accounts at the end of each calendar month.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within twenty (20) days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Utility" means the East Hants Water Utility

1. METER SERVICES

(a) Base Charges

<u>Size of Meter</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>
5/8 "	\$47.00
3/4"	69.01
1"	113.02
1 1/2"	223.05
2"	355.09
3"	707.18
3" Compound	1,414.36
4"	1,094.24
4" Compound	2,188.48

(b) Consumption Rates

All over 0 gallons \$12.34 per 1,000 gallons or \$2.71 per cubic meter

Minimum Bills

The minimum bill for water service shall be the Base Charge.

2. BULK WATER METER

\$13.95 per 1,000 gallons

Bulk water can only be obtained by customers who have a FOB key and an account, on which financial credits have been applied. A refundable deposit of \$25.00 shall be collected by the Utility when a FOB key is provided to a customer. The \$25.00 deposit shall be returned to the customer upon receipt of the FOB key by the Utility, following a verification that the FOB key is in good working order. Lost or stolen FOBs are the responsibility of the customer; failure to return the FOB to the Utility will result in default of the customer's deposit.

3. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE

The Municipality of the District of East Hants shall pay the Regional Water Utility for Public Fire Protection Services the amount of \$543,345 annually for twelve months beginning April 1, 2020, and for years subsequent the greater of this amount (\$543,345) or the total derived from the following formulae:

- (a) The sum of 30% of transmission and distribution, taxes and depreciation expense of the Utility and return on rate base of the immediately preceding year, plus
- (b) 10% of all other expenses

4. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

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

Each building having a sprinkler service pipe of 6” or less in diameter	\$300.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 8” or more	\$400.00

The customer shall be responsible for the supply and installation, including all costs, of a sprinkler service pipe from the main in the street to the building, including a proper size control valve so that the service may be shut off if necessary. All materials and procedures shall meet Utility standards. The Utility shall inspect the installation of same. The portion of the service

pipe that extends from the main to the street line shall become the property of the Utility, and this portion shall be maintained and eventually replaced by the Utility when necessary.

5. RATES FOR PRIVATELY OWNED HYDRANTS

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

Privately owned hydrants supplied with water from the Utility's system through a connection which is not metered.

Per hydrant per year	\$200.00
----------------------	----------

6. 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 sums 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 for the cost of the meter, after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the meter and of testing the same and after payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

7. RATES FOR WATER SUPPLIED FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Whenever the use of any fire hydrant is desired for supplying water for flushing sewers, drains or any other purpose, excepting those of the Fire Department, the Utility may grant a permit containing such terms and conditions as it considers necessary, including arrangements regarding supervision of the opening and closing of the hydrant and the keeping of a record of the time such hydrant is used. A charge of \$100.00 per permit shall be charged by the Utility plus consumption rate per 1000 gallons as outlined in the rates. The Utility may also recover the cost of staff time during supervision.

8. UNMETERED SERVICE

When circumstances require that a service connection be made without a meter, the minimum charge during the temporary service period shall be the Base Charge prorated according to the length of time the temporary service is required. A charge of \$100 will apply for service connection.

9. CONNECTION / DISCONNECTION/RECONNECTION FEE

The Utility shall charge a \$25.00 fee for the creation of a water account, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection of the system may have occurred.

The Utility shall charge a \$40.00 fee for the installation of a water meter or the inspection thereof. The fee shall be \$200.00 when a meter is installed, or inspection performed, after normal working hours of the Utility.

If a customer requests a meter replacement, not deemed necessary by the Utility, or if the customer requests a type of meter other than that deemed appropriate by the Utility (i.e. radio read vs regular meter) the customer shall be responsible for the full cost of the meter in addition to the installation fee.

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 has been paid to the Utility. The fee shall be \$50.00 for first time violations and \$85.00 for successive violations within a period of one year. The fee shall be \$200.00 if done after normal working hours of the Utility.

10. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Utility shall charge a \$25.00 administration fee for cheques that, due to non-negotiability, have been rejected by the Utility's bank, or for payment through a pre-authorized payment plan which has been reversed or dishonored by the bank/financial institution.

11. CHARGE FOR USE OF INVESTIGATOR/COLLECTOR

The Utility may charge a \$25.00 fee for each visit by the Investigator/Collector to a customer whose account is being disputed or whose account is past due, if it is determined that the account is correct.

12. CHARGE FOR MISSED APPOINTMENT BY CUSTOMER

When an appointment has been made by a customer to have water service hooked up or a meter installed, or the water turned on to a property, or another visit 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 Utilities staff have to return to the property, there may be a charge of \$40.00 for each visit missed if, in the judgment of the Utility, it is warranted.

13. CHARGE FOR THEFT OF SERVICE

The Utility may charge penalties in addition to applicable water charge for each illegal water connection as follows:

1st offence	\$300.00
2nd offence	\$600.00

14. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE

A special service charge of \$50.00 per site visit (\$200.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be charged to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service such as shutting off or turning on water service or other special service not provided for elsewhere in the schedules or the rules and regulations. In the case where the shutting off is requested because there is no operable shut off valve serving the dwelling, an isolation valve must be installed at the customers expense.

Despite subsection 9 where suspension of service is for non-payment only, the fees set out therein respecting connection or disconnection of service during regular working hours do not apply. There will only be one charge of \$50.00 for disconnection & reconnection once per year or in any 12 month period, otherwise it is \$50.00 per visit.

15. CHARGE FOR WATER BILL COPIES

The Utility may charge a fee of \$10.00 for every water bill copy issued outside of the regular billing cycle.

HST will be added to all fees as required by law