

**NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT**

- and -

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION** by the **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF INVERNESS**, 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 and for Approval to combine the Cheticamp Water Utility into the Inverness Water Utility

**AMENDED ORDER**

**BEFORE:**  Richard J. Melanson, LL.B., Member

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Inverness, on behalf of its Water Utility, made an Application to the Board for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services, amendments to its Schedule of Rules and Regulations and approval to combine the Cheticamp Water Utility into the Inverness Water Utility;

**AND WHEREAS** after due public notice, a hearing was held on April 10, 2018, and the Board issued its Decision on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018;

**AND WHEREAS** Response to Undertaking U-2, consisting of a revised Schedule "A", being a portion of the Water Utility's Schedule of Rates and Charges, was filed with the Board on April 11, 2018, and incorporated in the Board's Order in this matter dated May 18, 2018;

**AND WHEREAS** the Schedule "A" filed in Response to Undertaking U-2 contained an error, in that a quarterly Base Charge of \$37.62 for Unmetered Services was inadvertently included in the portion of the schedule related to metered rates;

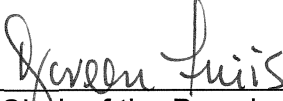
**AND WHEREAS** the Utility has confirmed the only quarterly Base Charge for Unmetered Services which should have been included in Schedule "A" is the one in the amount of \$110.26;

**AND WHEREAS** the Board finds it is appropriate to correct the error;

**IT IS ORDERED** that the Schedule of Rates and Charges, as amended, and attached hereto as Schedules "A", "B" and "C", be confirmed and approved, for Water and Water Services supplied on and after July 1, 2018, April 1, 2019, and April 1, 2020, respectively;

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all other terms and provisions of the Board's May 18, 2018 Order remain in full force and effect.

**DATED** at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018.

  
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Clerk of the Board

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**SCHEDULE "A"**

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF INVERNESS**  
**INVERNESS COUNTY WATER UTILITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES**

(Effective for water supplied on and after 1 July 2018)

**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 Inverness County Water Utility of the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

1. RATES:

(a)	<u>Base Charges</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>
	Unmetered (assuming 246 cubic meters per year)	110.26
	Size of Meter	
	5/8"	37.62
	3/4"	55.79
	1"	92.15
	1.5"	183.03
	2"	292.09
	3"	582.92
	4"	910.10
	6"	1,818.94

(b)	Consumption Rate	
		\$/ cubic meter    per cubic meter
		\$1.18            per cubic meter

(c) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Municipality of the County of Inverness shall pay annually to the water utility for fire protection on or before September 30, 2018 the sum of \$204,294.

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 \$60.00 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 \$60.00 has been paid to the Utility. If reconnection is outside of regular working hours, the charge is \$160.00.

8. 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.

9. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer, for any reason requests that the water be turned off from any premises, a charge of \$60.00 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 \$160.00 shall apply.

10. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$60.00 (\$160.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services 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.

11. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Utility may charge a \$25.00 administration fee plus any additional bank fees 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 \$25.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Utility, it is required.

**SCHEDULE "B"**

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**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF INVERNESS**  
**INVERNESS COUNTY WATER UTILITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES**

(Effective for water supplied on and after 1 April 2019)

**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 Inverness County Water Utility of the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

1. **RATES:**

(a) <b><u>Base Charges</u></b>	<b><u>Quarterly</u></b>
Unmetered (assuming 242 cubic meters per year)	120.12
Size of Meter	
5/8"	43.32
3/4"	64.33
1"	106.35
1.5"	211.40
2"	337.46
3"	673.62
4"	1,051.79
6"	2,102.28

(b)	
Consumption Rate	
	\$1.27 per cubic meter

(c) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Municipality of the County of Inverness shall pay annually to the water utility for fire protection on or before September 30, 2019 the sum of \$208,000.

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 \$60.00 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 \$60.00 has been paid to the Utility. If reconnection is outside of regular working hours, the charge is \$160.00.

8. 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.

9. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer, for any reason requests that the water be turned off from any premises, a charge of \$60.00 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 \$160.00 shall apply.

10. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$60.00 (\$160.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services 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.

11. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Utility may charge a \$25.00 administration fee plus any additional bank fees 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 \$25.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Utility, it is required.



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**SCHEDULE "C"**

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF INVERNESS**  
**INVERNESS COUNTY WATER UTILITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES**

(Effective for water supplied on and after 1 April 2020)

**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 Inverness County Water Utility of the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

1. **RATES:**

(a) <u>Base Charges</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>	
Unmetered		130.81
(assuming 239 cubic meters per year)		

Size of Meter		
5/8"		50.12
3/4"		74.51
1"		123.29
1.5"		245.25
2"		391.59
3"		781.84
4"		1,220.87
6"		2,440.39

(b)		
Consumption Rate		
	\$1.35	per cubic meter

(c) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Municipality of the County of Inverness shall pay annually to the water utility for fire protection on or before September 30, 2020 the sum of \$216,629.

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

(a) the sum of 33.2 % 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.

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 \$60.00 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 \$60.00 has been paid to the Utility. If reconnection is outside of regular working hours, the charge is \$160.00.

8. 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.

9. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer, for any reason requests that the water be turned off from any premises, a charge of \$60.00 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 \$160.00 shall apply.

10. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$60.00 (\$160.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services 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.

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