

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Responses received to the Notice of Application – Initial Interim Rates – Rural Municipality of St. Andrews – South St. Andrews Wastewater Utility

	Name	Date Received
1	Al Franchuk	27-Feb-21
2	Chris Mondor	01-Mar-21
3	Ken Vyse	01-Mar-21
4	Andrew Dolenuk	05-Mar-21
5	Karen McKenzie	05-Mar-21
6	Mindie Copet	12-Mar-21
7	Ron Naaykens	12-Mar-21
8	Glen McKenzie	15-Mar-21
9	Amanda Preachuk	16-Mar-21
10	Andre Saive	16-Mar-21
11	Arlene Dumka	16-Mar-21



20-Jacki
Feledechuk.pdf

12	Christophe & Amy Pilloud	16-Mar-21
13	Darlene Ans	16-Mar-21
14	David and Irene Ball	16-Mar-21
15	Elizabeth And Edward Swirsky	16-Mar-21
16	Jackie Feledechuk	16-Mar-21
17	Jeff Kaptian	16-Mar-21
18	Jim Popowich	16-Mar-21
19	Justin and Christine Vocadlo	16-Mar-21
20	Kerry Loewen	16-Mar-21
21	Kerry Loewen (2)	16-Mar-21
22	Lou Morissette	16-Mar-21
23	Paul Troia	16-Mar-21
24	Sandra Eggertson	16-Mar-21
25	Ashley Lawrence	17-Mar-21
26	Bill and Kathy Groves	17-Mar-21
27	Captain Jason Lavigne	17-Mar-21
28	Carol Baron	17-Mar-21
29	Dylan Hermiston	17-Mar-21
30	Edie Telenko	17-Mar-21
31	Jim Koshelanyk	17-Mar-21
32	Joseph Baron	17-Mar-21
33	Kaysha Troia	17-Mar-21

34	Kurtis Latham	17-Mar-21
35	Lisa Sutton	17-Mar-21
36	Marc & Lisa Dion	17-Mar-21
37	Marie Morissette	17-Mar-21
38	Matthew Baron	17-Mar-21
39	Maynard & Loreen Lawrence	17-Mar-21
40	Michael Staniul	17-Mar-21
41	Pam Gardiner	17-Mar-21
42	Rhonda Thomas	17-Mar-21
43	Richard Hemmerling	17-Mar-21
44	Scott Thomas	17-Mar-21

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: February-27-21 1:44:17 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 13:44:03

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Other

ContactFirstName: Al Franchuk

ContactEmail: bigall@mts.net

detailsOfComplaint: The RM of St. Andrews has made a rate application to the PUB for the South St. Andrews Wastewater System for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 years. I have concerns with this rate application as the costs are somewhat higher than the City of Winnipeg rates and what the residents of the City of Winnipeg pay for water and waste services. In effect, the affected residents (1,800 in total) of St. Andrews will be paying more for their waste water ONLY than what the City of Winnipeg residents pay for water and wastewater service combined. Information I have received on the internet from the City of Winnipeg Water and Waste Department show costs of \$2.86 per cubic meter quarterly, \$0.66 per day basic Charge (\$59.40 quarterly - calculated) and \$93.00 for a meter test. the RM of St. Andrews, in their proposal, shows costs of \$4.23 per cubic meter quarterly, \$80.82 basic charge quarterly and \$100.00 for a meter test. All of the RM of St. Andrews costs exceed those of the City of Winnipeg and, in my opinion, is not fare. How can residents of the City of Winnipeg pay less for water and waste than what the affected residents of St. Andrews are paying for a simple liquid only sewer system. It is also stated by the RM of St. Andrews that quarterly water bills are expected to be \$233 for a family of 2 or 3 people. Our homes that connect to this system have their own infrastructure in the way of well water pumps and septic field pumps as well as holding tanks for sewer solids which the resident is responsible for getting pumped out of the holding tank; something which the RM of St. Andrews does not have to worry about. This is a huge cost to the residents of St. Andrews affected that was forced upon and is totally unacceptable and unfair.

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-01-21 11:01:39 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 11:01:23

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Chris Mondor

ContactEmail: pwditty@gmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: The rates for service are too high for St. Andrews. \$220 before any grey water enters the system quarterly is a joke. Far too high. We still have the cost of a septic tank, our own well water, water softeners, etc. This system is not cost effective with the cost to Winnipeg as well as the cost to stAndrews approximately \$10,000 for a service to just take grey water away is ridiculous. We will be paying more than the people of Winnipeg do for full water and sewer.
THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-01-21 12:08:19 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 12:08:05

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Kenneth Vyse

ContactEmail: dakini@mts.net

detailsOfComplaint: Re: RM St Andrews initial interim wastewater rates.

- 1) What is the %age of wastewater of total water inflow?
- 2) What is the pipe for meter testing and is this a one time charge?
- 3) What is "Minimum Meter Tampering"?

Thanks,

Ken Vyse
St. Andrews

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-05-21 2:45:30 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 14:45:17

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Andrew H. Dolenuk

ContactEmail: adolenuk@mymts.net

detailsOfComplaint: Re: NOTICE OF APPLICATION RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. ANDREWS INITIAL
INTERIM WASTEWATER RATES ST. ANDREWS SOUTH WASTEWATER UTILITY February 17, 2021

I am in Opposition to these Rates for reasons stated below:

The RM states the following on its application: "In accordance with the proposed Service Sharing Agreement (SSA) with the City of Winnipeg, every property connecting to the St Andrews South Wastewater Utility shall pay a Utilities Buy-In Charge to the RM of St Andrews. The RM anticipates the SSA will be signed prior to April 1, 2021."

As of this date, March 05, 2021, there is no signed agreement with the City of Winnipeg or the RM of West St. Paul that I am aware of, or have been advised of, therefore the data the RM has supplied the PUB is just an assumption.

In review of decisions made by the PUB, I noticed that Municipalities offering "sewage" only services us the ERU method of billing and no meters are forced upon residents to measure water usage of their "private" water systems. My private well and plumbing is in no way subsidized or regulated by the RM of St. Andrews. I believe that the Charter of Freedoms and Rights Prohibits the state, in this case the RM of St. Andrews, to force me to have a meter and/or any other device on my private property and equipment.

On February 13, 2021 2:37 PM is sent an email to the CAO of St. Andrews which follows:

Hello,

I will be requiring copies of the 'Cheque and Visa Detail Reports' starting in January 01/2019 to/and including January 31/2021.

Preferably this information can be sent to me at adolenuk@mymts.net as you do have electronic copies of these items. If, for whatever reason, you decide not to use that avenue, they can be sent to my home address:

Andrew H. Dolenuk
19 Davidson Road
St. Andrews, Manitoba
R1A 2W4

As you are surely aware, this information was posted on the RM of St. Andrews website before the Administration of St. Andrews removed that access from the Residents/Taxpayers.

The receipt of these reports is time sensitive as I will require information listed in those reports for my Report to the

Manitoba Municipal Board regarding RM of St. Andrews Special Service Levy By-Law #4349 proposed by the RM. Failure to provide me with this documents, in a timely manner, could jeopardize the dates of the Municipal Board hearing as I would have to involve the Municipal Board in investigating the delay.

This email is ALSO copied to the Ombudsman's Office to verify that I have had 'communication' with the RM to receive this information before having to file for this information under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), which provides a right of access to records held by public bodies.

Regards,

Andrew Dolenuk
19 Davidson Road
St. Andrews, Mb

I have not received a reply or the reports I had requested. I will therefore have to submit a FIPPA request which in all likely hood will take over 30 days to receive the documentation I require.

Also the proposed \$100 levy on 'unconnected' residents is before the Municipal Board and Public Hearing will be heard on that levy as per the proposed RM of St. Andrews By-Law 4349 . Has the RM made you aware of this proposed Levy? This is their solution to the High Rates required in order to meet PUB guidelines. However, it is my opinion that this type of Levy can only be used regarding Capital Costs and not as a subsidy to the Sewer Rate.

It is unconscionable to me that the RM would apply for and the PUB would hear an application for an interim Rate when there is no signed agreement with the City of Winnipeg, the RM of West St. Paul and the proposed "local improvement fee for the South St. Andrews Waste water System" is still before the Municipal Board and that that Board will still have to make a decision if a "public hearing" will be held, further delaying the approval or rejection of the RM of St. Andrews Proposal.

In fact, I received a letter notice from CAO Sigmundson indicating that I have 60 days to make a decision whether I want to put the Capital Cost of the infrastructure totaling \$7,264.37 my taxes for 20 years or pay in full within 60 days of the date posted on the notice, which is February 26, 2001. However this is being done by the RM of St. Andrews without a signed SSA with the City of Winnipeg and the RM of West St. Paul or the approval of By-Law 4271 which would impose a, in my opinion, illegal levy of \$100 on unconnected customers to lower the unbelievable high rate of this System to the Residents of South St. Andrews.

No due diligence was done when this Project was undertaken and as of this date I surmise that that still is the case.

My Roll # is 21468 and my property is in Phase 1 of this Project.

To again make reference to due diligence, my wife Mary Ann, who is in Joint Tenant with me, has not received any notice from CAO Sigmundson or the RM of St. Andrew regarding any of these issues! There I cannot make any decision regarding an implementation of this RATE or their By-Law .

Thank you!

Andrew H. Dolenuk
19 Davidson Road
St. Andrews

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

March 5, 2021

Public Utilities Board
400-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0C4

Re: Notice of Application - Rural Municipality of St. Andrews - South St. Andrews Wastewater Utility - Initial Wastewater Rates

Board Members,

The St. Andrews wastewater collection system will send wastewater to the Winnipeg North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) via a low pressure system connected to a shared gravity trunk line in West St. Paul. There are 1,948 properties within the designated service area of the St. Andrews utility that will be charged a per parcel local improvement levy for the construction of the wastewater collection system. Of those properties, approximately 1,800 are currently developed. Single family dwellings are on the majority of the properties but there are also some businesses, a golf course, community club, school, churches and other non-residential buildings. The Municipality is suggesting that the system will be officially commissioned on April 1st but existing properties have up to five years to connect under provincial legislation.

After reviewing the proposed rates and the supporting information provided by the RM of St. Andrews, I have some serious concerns about the long-term financial viability of the South St. Andrews Wastewater Utility. Unfortunately there was little consideration given to the ongoing operation and maintenance costs in the decision to construct this particular system and send the wastewater through West St. Paul to Winnipeg.

Service Sharing Agreements

There are no signed service sharing agreements with the City of Winnipeg or the RM of West St. Paul. While the Municipality has indicated it hopes to have a signed agreement with the City by April 1st, there has been no recent mention at Council meetings about the status of an agreement with West St. Paul and the rate application notice and supporting information provided by the Municipality are silent on the matter. The content of a future agreement with the City of Winnipeg is fairly predictable. It is unlikely to differ from the City's 2012 policy on service sharing agreements with surrounding municipalities or the agreement the City signed with West St. Paul in 2013. St. Andrews utility customers will likely be required to pay a buy-in charge and an annual participation fee to the City of Winnipeg and we know the amount for the next several years. In 2020, the City approved wastewater rates for four years so there is no mystery there. The City has indicated that any agreement with the Municipality will cap connections at 1,800 equivalent residential units (ERUs) for the next ten years. The content of a future West St. Paul agreement is a lot less clear. The memorandum of understanding signed in 2016 contemplated a future service sharing agreement that would transfer 50% ownership of the gravity trunk line in West St. Paul to St. Andrews. That shared portion of the collection system was

paid for with federal and provincial grant monies as well as equal contributions of \$2.3 million from West St. Paul and St. Andrews. St. Andrews is supposedly entitled to 4,500 ERUs (half of the design capacity of the gravity main) and will presumably bear equal responsibility for the future operation and maintenance of that shared portion of the collection system. I notice that the Municipality has included a line item for potential charges payable to West St. Paul in the forecasted schedule of utility rate requirements but no dollars have been budgeted. At this late date, it's very concerning that these potential costs are unknown and, therefore, have not been factored into the calculation of proposed rates. Further, the system cannot be operational without signed agreements.

Utility Financial Viability

For the purposes of the rate application, the Municipality is assuming that there will be 500 properties connected to the wastewater collection system in the first three years. To date, there have been a little over 200 water meters installed according to municipal reports. The Municipality is estimating that it will incur annual administrative and operating costs of approximately \$199,000 (excluding amortization and interest on long term debt) related to the St. Andrews portion of the collection system with 500 users connected. The Municipality is proposing an annual special service levy of \$100 on all properties that remain unconnected in order to supplement the revenue of the utility. There has been opposition to the levy and the matter is presently before the Municipal Board. The utility rates for which the Municipality is seeking Public Utility Board approval includes charges that will likely be levied by the City of Winnipeg to process the wastewater but no charges from West St. Paul, as mentioned above. I have the following comments and concerns:

- With regard to the presentation of the proposed rates, I had hoped that the Municipality would show the portions related to the City of Winnipeg separate from amounts strictly under the control of the RM of St. Andrews. I believe ratepayers deserve to know where their dollars are going for the service provided.
- The Municipality's expectation that 500 users will be connected within the first three years may be overly optimistic. While over 200 water meters have been installed to date, some of the recipients have no intention to connect to the utility in the near future but requested the installation believing that the "free" meter was a limited time offer. Residents who have working septic fields will likely opt to save money by postponing connection to the system as long as possible. There is no reason to assume that all properties will be connected within five years. Provincial enforcement of the regulations is complaint driven rather than proactive and individuals, as well as the Municipality, have been lobbying the Province to extend the mandated hook-up deadline from five years to ten years.
- Given that the rate of user connection to the system is likely to be slow and prolonged, the Municipality is proposing that the utility's annual St. Andrews operating and maintenance costs will be primarily funded by non-users within the local improvement district through the annual special service levy. If there are initially around 200 utility customers in the first full year of operation, at the proposed rates and estimated volumes, users will contribute about \$45,900 toward St. Andrews annual administrative and operating costs while the non-users will contribute \$174,800. Even if the utility can attract 500 customers, users will contribute about \$114,840 while the non-users will contribute \$144,800. There will need to be approximately 600 customers connected to the utility before users contribute more to the St. Andrews portion of utility expenses than the non-users. Utilities are required to be self-supporting user-pay

entities according to the Board's regulatory principles. The Municipality is proposing that the St. Andrews utility will be heavily subsidized for several years by taxpayers who are not directly benefiting from the service.

- The Municipality is forecasting very modest utility surpluses once 500 users are connected (with subsidies from non-users) and recommended working capital levels will not be attained even once 1,800 users are connected. The Municipality is also making no allowance for transfers to reserves for the newly constructed system. The Municipality contends that the majority of St. Andrews specific expenses to maintain and operate the system are fixed, therefore, the only way to improve the affordability of the system is to reduce expenses or significantly increase the number of users. The system was designed to service approximately 4,500 equivalent residential units (ERUs) but there are only about 1,800 developed properties in the service area. The City of Winnipeg has indicated, by Council resolution, that it will only consider servicing a maximum of 1,800 homes over the next ten years due to limited biosolids capacity at the NEWPCC. At that point, it is hoped that construction of an expanded biosolids facility will be complete. However, the City has warned that biosolids processing limits could be reached prior to completion of the expansion which would necessitate an end to connections to the wastewater system whether or not the 1,800 ERU maximum is reached. For now, the City is willing to allot just enough capacity under the yet to be signed agreement with St. Andrews to allow connection of existing development within the service area. New development will be stalled for many years. Consequently, the Municipality will be unable to expand the utility's customer base and better utilize the system's design capacity to improve the financial position of the utility for the foreseeable future. Further, the Municipality will not be able to rely on contributions from capital levy fees on new development to build a utility reserve.

Based on the foregoing, I am concerned that the combination of high operating costs for the St. Andrews portion of the collection system, the exclusion of potential West. St. Paul charges in the estimates of utility expenses, the low number of users for the first few years as well as the significant restrictions on the future number of users will make it extremely difficult for the utility to become a self-sufficient user-pay entity.

Proposed Rates and Fees

I have a few concerns regarding the proposed three year rate structure as well as the portion of the rates which are ultimately payable to the City of Winnipeg:

- City of Winnipeg annual participation fees are \$274 for 2021, \$285 for 2022 and \$296 for 2023 and yet the Municipality proposes a static quarterly service charge using the 2022 participation fee for all three years. Consequently, more of the quarterly service charge will go to St. Andrews administrative expenses in the first year when the number of users connected is very low but far less will be available to cover St. Andrews administrative costs in year three when there is estimated to be up to 500 users. In year three, only \$6.82 quarterly (\$27.28 annually) per user would be available to cover St. Andrews expenses related to insurance, meter reading, billing and collection, postage, annual reports to the City of Winnipeg and other allocated office expenses which is insufficient based on those expenses which have been estimated in the schedule of utility rate requirements (some additional administrative expenses have not yet been budgeted). Moreover, the Municipality has not provided a preliminary cost allocation

methodology which would have identified an obvious shortfall. The utility is in danger of running deficits in the initial years. In my opinion, there is no point in exacerbating the problem by not including known costs in the proposed rates.

- Wastewater rates per cubic meter payable to the City of Winnipeg are \$2.86 for 2021, \$2.91 for 2022 and \$2.96 for 2023 (Appendix A). Again, the Municipality has chosen to use the 2022 rate for all three years which has a similar impact as the treatment of the participation fee described above. Actual City of Winnipeg rates for each of the three years should have been used in the St. Andrews rate application.
- In addition to the City of Winnipeg buy-in charge to connect existing dwellings and other buildings, any new construction will be required to pay an up-front charge under the revenue sharing provisions of an agreement with the City of Winnipeg. The up-front charge is currently set at \$3,370 for new residential connections and \$3,370 per \$500,000 developed assessed market value for new commercial, industrial and other non-residential properties (Appendix B). I note that the Municipality has not included the up-front charge for new development within the rates for which Board approval is requested.
- The City of Winnipeg annual participation fee included in the rate application is the amount payable for residential properties. Commercial, industrial and other properties will be assessed the same amount for each \$500,000 of developed assessed market value (Appendix B). I believe this would require a different quarterly charge for these properties.
- The buy-in charge for which the Municipality is requesting approval is for a standard 5/8" meter. The fee is greater for larger meter sizes (Appendix A).
- While some of the rates and fees that the City of Winnipeg will charge St. Andrews residents will be allocated to the City of Winnipeg utility, much of the money we will be required to pay for wastewater service will not go to the City's utility. The annual participation fee is allocated to the City of Winnipeg regional road capital budget as is the up-front charge for new development. Both of these are considered revenue sharing components of City of Winnipeg service sharing agreements. In my opinion, this is a case of taxation without representation; a road tax imposed whether St. Andrews residents use Winnipeg roads or not and charged only to those South St. Andrews residents connected to the wastewater system. Further, while the City of Winnipeg cubic meter charges and the buy-in charges are retained within the City's utility, the City allocates 11% of its annual water and waste revenue as a "dividend" to its general operating budget. If we consider the impact on quarterly charges alone, given that St. Andrews is proposing a minimum quarterly charge of \$140.04 for the first three years, \$72.98 (52%) of this charge will go to the City of Winnipeg regional road capital budget and to its general operating budget, not to the City of Winnipeg utility. In a recent court decision, the City of Winnipeg was forced to refund impact fees collected on new development within the City because there was no demonstrated relationship between the fees collected and direct benefits accruing to the property owners and developers responsible for payment of the fees. In my opinion, this is a very similar situation. St. Andrews wastewater utility users will be paying some fees to the City of Winnipeg which are not benefit-based and with no obligation on the part of the City of Winnipeg to be accountable to St. Andrews ratepayers. The Municipal Act grants municipalities the authority to collect fees from taxpayers to satisfy charges levied by another municipality for a specific "service or thing". It cannot simply be an arbitrary transfer of wealth from taxpayers in one jurisdiction to another. I believe only those rates and fees charged and

retained in the City of Winnipeg's utility and directly related to the provision of wastewater services should be approved and charged to wastewater utility users in St. Andrews.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The setting of utility rates is usually the final step in the process to commission a new utility and at that point there should be little in the way of surprises. Not so for South St. Andrews residents. In my opinion, there are still several outstanding issues that need to be addressed prior to approval of interim rates. I recommend that:

1. the Municipality be required to forward copies of signed service sharing agreements with both the City of Winnipeg and the RM of West. St. Paul to the Board as soon as they are available;
2. the Municipality be required to provide a revised schedule of rates which includes all charges and fees payable to both the City of Winnipeg and the RM of West St. Paul;
3. the rate schedule identify which fees are related to St. Andrews utility expenses and which are related to services provided by the other municipalities;
4. actual Winnipeg rates, already approved by City of Winnipeg Council, be included in each of the three years for which St. Andrews is requesting rate approval;
5. the Municipality be required to provide more detailed information to support the adequacy of the proposed quarterly service charge to cover St. Andrews administrative costs;
6. the Board seriously consider the reasonableness of approving rates which are insufficient to support a user-pay utility without subsidization by taxpayers who are not utility customers;
7. the Board require the Municipality to submit a plan to improve the utility's financial viability in both the short and long term given the slow rate of user connection over several years and the capacity limitations that will be imposed by the City of Winnipeg; and
8. the Board consider whether it is appropriate for St. Andrews utility customers to be charged fees by the City of Winnipeg that are unrelated to the provision of sewer service.

Respectfully submitted for the Board's consideration,



Karen McKenzie
19 Oakfield Drive
St. Andrews, Manitoba
R1A 2W9
(204)339-2278
Email: mckenzk@shaw.ca

Agenda – Council – January 30, 2020

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – January 9, 2020

Item No. 3 2020 to 2023 Water and Sewer Rates

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 21, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the following to Council:

1. That a four-year increase to the Water rate be approved based on the amount of water used in cubic metres (m³) effective March 1, 2020, January 1, 2021, January 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023 as follows:

Water	Approved 2019	Recommended March 1, 2020	Recommended January 1, 2021	Recommended January 1, 2022	Recommended January 1, 2023
Rate (per m3)	\$1.82	\$1.86	\$1.90	\$1.95	\$2.00

2. That a four-year increase to the Sewer rate be approved, based on the amount of water used in cubic metres (m³), which includes an amount allocated to the Environmental Projects Reserve (EPR) effective March 1, 2020, January 1, 2021, January 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023 as follows:

Sewer	Approved 2019	Recommended March 1, 2020	Recommended January 1, 2021	Recommended January 1, 2022	Recommended January 1, 2023
Rate (per m3)	\$2.80	\$2.81	\$2.86	\$2.91	\$2.96
Allocated to EPR (per m3)	\$0.40	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35

Agenda – Council – January 30, 2020

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – January 9, 2020

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

6. That a four-year increase per property be approved for the sewer service buy-in charge for service sharing agreements, based on water meter size in inches or equivalent maximum water demand (MWD) in litres per second (l/s), effective March 1, 2020, January 1, 2021, January 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023 as follows:

Sewer Services Buy-In Charge		Approved rate/property	Recommended rate/property	Recommended rate/property	Recommended rate/property	Recommended rate/property
Water Meter Size (inches)	MWD (litres/sec)	2019	March 1, 2020	January 1, 2021	January 1, 2022	January 1, 2023
5/8"	0.0-0.9	\$2,500	\$2,600	\$2,680	\$3,000	\$3,100
3/4"	0.91-1.3	\$3,700	\$3,800	\$3,940	\$4,500	\$4,600
1"	1.31-2.4	\$6,200	\$6,400	\$6,550	\$7,500	\$7,700
1 1/2"	2.41-3.8	\$12,500	\$12,800	\$13,200	\$15,200	\$15,600
2"	3.81-7.6	\$19,900	\$20,500	\$21,100	\$24,300	\$25,000
3"	>7.6	\$37,300	\$38,400	\$39,560	\$45,600	\$47,000
4"	>7.6	N/A	\$66,300	\$68,300	\$70,350	\$72,500

7. That a new Water Meter Renewal Reserve be approved to fund a program for the replacement and renewal of water meters with advanced water meters, which Reserve would be funded by customers through the Daily Basic Charge, with the Director of Water and Waste as the Fund Manager.
8. That the introduction of a Turn Off/Turn On Fee be approved for By-law Enforcement as authorized by section 5 of the Water By-law No. 107/2015 of \$113.00 per transaction effective March 1, 2020.
9. That subject to the approval of Recommendation 8, the deletion of the Turn Off/Turn On Fee for Non-Payment effective March 1, 2020, be approved.
10. That an increase to the Property Account Balance Confirmation for Law Firms Fee from \$17.00 to \$25.00 per transaction effective March 1, 2020, be approved.
11. That spending of \$15.334 million be authorized from the 2019 Capital Budget for the NEWPCC Upgrade Project 2: Biosolids Facilities to proceed with engineering services for the project.

Service Name Fee Name and Description	2020	Units	2020 Effective Date	Authority to Charge Fee
Service Sharing with Municipalities				
Up-Front Charge				
New residential properties	\$3,370.00	per dwelling unit	Jan 1/20	Service Sharing Agreement
New commercial, industrial and other non-residential properties	\$3,370.00	per \$500,000 of Developed Assessed Market Value	Jan 1/20	Service Sharing Agreement
Participation Fee *				
New and existing residential properties	\$263.00	per dwelling unit	Jan 1/20	Service Sharing Agreement
New and existing commercial, industrial and other non-residential properties	\$263.00	per \$500,000 of Developed Assessed Market Value	Jan 1/20	Service Sharing Agreement

* NOTE: THE PARTICIPATION FEE IS ADJUSTED ANNUALLY AND INCREASES BY THE GREATER OF 4% OR THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

SOURCE: WWW.WINNIPEG.CA

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-12-21 2:06:22 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 14:06:08

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Mindie Copet

ContactEmail: copets6@gmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: The RM is trying to charge us over \$7000 during a pandemic with 55 days notice for a service that is not even in operation. We just found out that only 1800 houses new or existing are able to sign up for the service in the first 5 years.... SO WHAT AM I PAYING FOR. There are no signed agreements in place with Winnipeg or West St. Paul. This is not right. If I can not provide the lump sum amount they are taking a loan for 20 years. I can not pay this loan off early. It is at a 2.5% interest rate that I have not signed or accepted. How is this legal!!!

The letter advising all of the above did not come certified so what if I never did receive it.

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [Ron Naaykens](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Interim Water rates R M of St Andrews By-Law No. 4350
Date: March-16-21 12:20:22 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ron Naaykens <ronnaaykens@gmail.com>
Date: March 12, 2021 at 10:38:48 AM CST
To: Ron Naaykens <ronnaaykens@gmail.com>
Subject: **Interim Water rates R M of St Andrews By-Law No. 4350**

To whom it may concern.

We vehemently oppose the rates set by the inept council ruining the R M of St Andrews. Not Running.

It is a untested low pressure sewer system. The rates in West St Paul include water and a gravity system. No comparison and rates should reflect that. You cannot approve this as it is clearly insane. Please forward to all involved.

Thank you for your time
Ron & Wendy Naaykens
6 Matrona Bay
St.Andrews Manitoba
R1A3A1
204-981-5610

Sent from my iPhone

March 15, 2021

Public Utilities Board
400-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0C4

Re: **Notice of Application – Rural Municipality of St. Andrews – South St. Andrews Wastewater Utility – Initial Wastewater Rates**

Board Members,

The Rural Municipality of St. Andrews has submitted an application for initial sewer rates for their South St. Andrews Wastewater Utility. This utility consists of a low pressure sewer collection system to gather liquid waste for 1,800 + residences in south St. Andrews and convey the liquid through a “shared” gravity collection pipe in West St. Paul to the North End Water Pollution Control Centre in the City of Winnipeg.

I have been closely following this sewer system as it has progressed in fits and starts over the last 6 + years. I have grave concerns about the RM of St. Andrews’ ability to manage an infrastructure project of this size and have seen a number of blunders that cause me to question the appropriateness of this system to achieve the desired outcomes. But the system has moved ahead to the point where the Municipality feels it is ready to begin operations.

I have the following concerns about this rate application:

Lack of service sharing agreements

At this point in time there are no signed Service Sharing Agreements with the City of Winnipeg or the RM of West St. Paul. This rate application has been submitted with what are, in effect, estimated rates which can’t be confirmed until there are signed agreements in place. It is interesting to note that on the Schedule of Utility Rate Requirements included in the application there is a line for “Main line collection system costs in West St Paul, cost shared” with no amounts shown. Until there is a Service Sharing Agreement with West St. Paul, any costs to maintain this collection line are unknown. This rate application should be set aside until these service sharing agreements are in place and all costs can be factored in.

The Service Sharing Agreement with West St Paul also has to incorporate ownership of the main gravity collector pipe in West St. Paul. This pipe was “upsized” to allow for increased capacity for St. Andrews. At this time there is no agreement on how any repairs and maintenance costs of this “shared” pipe will be cost-shared between the 2 RM’s. It is also interesting to note that the RM of St. Andrews has capitalized in their financial statements the amount they overpaid for a 50% “share” of this pipe while the RM of West St. Paul has capitalized in their financial statements the full cost of this “shared” pipe. If West St. Paul feels they own the full pipe, how will this be reflected in a shared service agreement and how will that impact the rates proposed by St. Andrews.

Rate for liquid

As this is a low pressure sewer system all we are sending for treatment are liquids. We still have the expense of maintaining our 2 chamber septic tank and pump, and the expense of an annual pump out of the solids. Yet the City of Winnipeg’s portion of the per cubic meter rate we are being charged is the same as a resident of Winnipeg, who has a full gravity sewer system. The City of Winnipeg’s portion of the per cubic meter rate should be adjusted downwards to reflect the different nature of the waste water it will receive from St. Andrews residents.

Annual increase in participation fee

The Quarterly Service Charge includes a component payable to the City of Winnipeg, dubbed the "Participation Fee". On December 12th, 2012, the City of Winnipeg adopted a Service Sharing Policy that sets out this on-going Annual Participation Fee. The policy states that the annual fee would be \$200 for 2013. In the Service Sharing Agreement between the City of Winnipeg and the RM of West St. Paul, this "Participation Fee" is adjusted annually by **the greater of 4%** or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.

At this time there is no Service Sharing Agreement between the City of Winnipeg and the RM of St. Andrews but, based on the agreement with West St. Paul, residents of St. Andrews can expect this "Participation Fee" to increase by **at least 4% per year**. Indeed, if you take the \$200 rate for 2013 and increase it by 4% per year, the rate for 2022 would calculate out to \$284, which is the rate the RM of St. Andrews has used in this rate application.

This minimum 4% annual increase far outstrips the % increase in the consumer price index yet, as the ratepayer, we have no ability to object to such a large annual increase. The annual increase in this "Participation Fee" should be capped at the lesser of the percentage increase in the consumer price index or 4%. This would put the 2022 rate in the neighbourhood of \$225.

Where the participation fee goes

The City of Winnipeg's Service Sharing Policy dictates that all revenues from this "Participation Fee" are to be allocated to the City of Winnipeg regional roads capital budget. This is another example, similar to the City of Winnipeg's Impact Fees for new development, where the expenses to be funded have no correlation to the basis on which the revenue is collected. In effect, this is a "**Road Tax**" imposed on some residents of St. Andrews by the City of Winnipeg, with the tax-paying residents having no say in how the tax monies are spent.

Lack of financial viability

The RM of St. Andrews has proposed that residents within the 2 phases of the LPS system who are non-users of the LPS system be charged \$100 per year to offset the operating costs of the system, until such time as there are 1,200 users of the system. They are, in effect, asking a small subset of RM residents to subsidize those few residents who actually hook up to the LPS system, on the basis that the LPS system will benefit all residents of the RM. This is not a user-pay proposal by the RM.

If the system is so costly so as to be unaffordable by the actual users, then the utility should be subsidized by the entire municipality, not a subset of residents. All residents of the RM not hooking up to this LPS will benefit equally from whatever environmental benefits arise. Other operations of the RM, such as the sewer lagoon at Petersfield, are subsidized by all ratepayers in the RM.

The RM of St. Andrews proposed per cubic meter rate is significantly higher than the RM of West St. Paul's per cubic meter rate, yet residents of West St. Paul have a full gravity system like the City of Winnipeg. So having non users subsidize what appears to be an inflated rate should call into question the financial viability of this LPS sewer system.

Respectfully submitted for the Board's consideration,



Glen McKenzie
19 Oakfield Drive
St. Andrews, Manitoba
R1A 2W9
(204) 339-2278

From: [Amanda Preachuk](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: St.Andrews Sewer Project
Date: March-16-21 9:41:44 PM

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I would like to put forward my objection to the Public Utilities Board for the projected fees related to the sewer system in St.Andrews. We are being made to pay for a system in which infrastructure is not yet complete and to which agreements have not even yet been signed with Winnipeg or West St. Paul. Our projected rates are beyond what West St. Paul has been charged and to say that our council had been less than transparent with the fees we will be incurring would be an understatement. I don't agree with a levy/penalty being charged to homeowners for a system that isn't even ready to use.

Amanda Preachuk
5306 highway 9
St. Andrews MB
R1a3m8

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andre Saive](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Objection to South St. Andrews special levy
Date: March-16-21 11:06:57 PM

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Hello, I disagree with the Municipality of St Andrews decision to proceed with this \$100 annual levy for non connected properties.

Our taxes has dramatically increased in our area and adding this \$100 along with the capital costs of the sewer project is causing financial hardship for so many families in the community. I urge the public utility board to properly assess the legality and the impacts of this levy on the community and to act in the best interest of the community and not the few that may profit from the economic benefits of the sewer project.

Thank you

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-16-21 4:10:17 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 16:10:03

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Arlene Dumka

ContactEmail: ajjdumka@hotmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: Dear Sir/Madam:

This complaint is relative to the RM of St. Andrews PUB application dated Feb. 17, 2021. Please be advised that although the RM has applied to the Board it is, in my view, very premature. Currently, there are no signed agreements between the RM's of St. Andrews, West St. Paul and the City of Winnipeg. It is incomprehensible that an application was made to the PUB without the tangible infrastructure in place. How can residents be assured that this service will be made available should a rate be finalized.

There also remains a Wastewater Levy that has been applied to all residents that do not hook up immediately to the wastewater line. As this matter is before the Manitoba Municipal Board currently, how can PUB entertain an interim rate application? To do so, would be shooting at a moving target, as the proposed rate is being subsidized by this levy.

It should also be noted that the RM has gone on record as stating that the system will be running on April 1, 2021 and ready for connection. Very clearly they have overstepped due process/procedure. At this juncture, I would suggest that it would be premature to approve any rate sans a Public Hearing. Currently, there are still too many unknown variables at play. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [Christophe&Amy Pilloud](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: RM of St Andrews - Waste Water Hook Up
Date: March-16-21 7:51:00 PM

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Hello,

We are residents of St Andrews and have concerns regarding the hook up of our wastewater to the City of Winnipeg.

If an agreement with the City of Winnipeg is not come to by April 1st, 2021, will we still be held to paying the Local Improvement Fee by April 28th?

From the RM website FAQ sheet:

There are four types of fees:

- **The local improvement fee** covers the cost of building the public infrastructure. **This fee will be due when the system is ready for operation**, and can be paid in a lump sum or financed over 20 years on your property taxes. The fee is \$7,264.37 per parcel, or \$464 a year if financed on your property taxes.
- **The special service levy** is an annual \$100 fee that will be paid by properties not yet connected to the system (subject to approval of The Municipal Board). **The fee will be prorated to \$75 in 2021, assuming the system begins operating in April.**

Is it in the RMs Jurisdiction to add the local improvement fee to resident's taxes if not paid in a lump sum by April 28th? If not agreed upon by residents?

If the City of Winnipeg requires the North End Water Treatment Plant to be upgraded and there is currently an 8 year timeline, with no funding secured, how will this affect St Andrews residents?

--

Christophe & Amy Pilloud

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-16-21 11:44:09 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 11:43:55

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Darlene Ans

ContactEmail: Step_83@live.ca

detailsOfComplaint: Inregards to st Andrews municipal PUB, having us pay \$7264.37 by the end of April 2021. If we donot pay it will go on our taxes. We have no say in this . plus the hookup fee. Plus the \$100 levy. All this is for the approximately 1800 homes involved. What about the homes that arent built. There is hundreds of acres still to be developed.

People have lost there jobs or temporary laid off. Hours cut down. Sure we dont know how long covid will be . 2 more years. St Andrews has not with Winnipeg. How could they be forcing money from us.

Thank-you. Darlene

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [Irene Ball](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Objection to rates set for St. Andrews
Date: March-16-21 4:04:00 PM

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I formally object to the extremely high rates proposed to St.Andrews to only treat our grey water.

And also to the \$100 levy as a penalty for later hook up.

David and Irene Ball
2 Zachary Dr.
St. Andrews, Mb.

From: [Elizabeth Swirsky](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: St. Andrews sewer
Date: March-16-21 8:56:00 PM

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I am a homeowner in St. Andrews and I also have a business and two empty lots in the proposed sewer area . We don't even have a signed agreement with the city of wpg and we are being asked to pay almost eight thousand dollars for an unapproved system that is only taking grey water and more charges to come. We can't get a straight answer or explanation from the rm.

what is going on?

Thankyou

Elizabeth And Edward swirsky

41 Pincherry lane

St. Andrews. My

Sent from my iPhone

From: [jackie feledechuk](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Wastewater
Date: March-16-21 7:52:26 PM

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ATTENTION: ce courriel provient d'un expéditeur externe. Ne cliquez sur aucun lien et n'ouvrez pas de pièce jointe, excepté si vous connaissez l'expéditeur.

This whole wastewater infrastructure is a fiasco! They want thousands of dollars from us when the system isn't even ready. The utility fees are ridiculous. Everybody has their pockets open and we're paying! Why are we being metered for the water coming in? They don't even know for sure where they are putting it! Everyone should pay a set fee for the system. I've never heard of people getting charged for the water they use. Do you know how many hundreds of dwellings have their weeping tile going to their septic fields? Who is going to pay for all that extra wastewater? The RM? They'll turn around and raise our taxes to pay for it. I could go on and on about all the questions and concerns the residents of St. Andrews have. This needs to stop until our concerns are answered.

Thank you.

Jackie Feledechuk

Sent from my LG Mobile

Sent from my LG Mobile

From: [Jeff Kaptian](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: South St Andrews Wastewater Project
Date: March-16-21 8:47:06 PM

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Good evening,

I wanted to take this opportunity to formally put forth my objection to the 100 special service levy for choosing not to hook up to the wastewater system in South St. Andrews.

My objection is founded on the following:

There is no signed service agreement with the city of Winnipeg for the system, yet I am expected to pay infrastructure fees by the end of April.

The rates are yet to be determined and what if they aren't approved?

I also have concerns about meter placement which also keeps changing. I'm concerned I will be charged for water that doesn't even enter the system ie. watering my garden

Thanks for your consideration.

Jeff Kaptian
23 Mirey Creek Drive West
Lockport Manitoba
R1A 2S6

Sent from my iPhone

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-16-21 8:32:05 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 08:31:51

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Jim Popowich

ContactEmail: jamespopowich@gmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: I am objecting to the proposed St. Andrews Wastewater project.
I am objecting to the proposed \$100 Levy for unhooked residents.
I am objecting to the proposed fees on this system.
I am objecting to the infrastructure fees on this project.

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [Justin Voadlo](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Rejection of By-law 4349, Wastewater Removal Rate in St. Andrews
Date: March-16-21 3:04:30 PM

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Roll Number: 0006666.000

As per 319 (1) of the "Manitoba Municipal Act" I am hereby objecting to the proposed levy as per By-Law 4349.

The Manitoba Environmental Regulations 83/2003 are quite clear. Section 8.2 (1) states that residents have five years to connect to the wastewater system. The levy is penalizing the households choosing to comply with said regulations; how, therefore, could this fee be remotely logical or fair?

This levy represents a tax with no return on residents who are simply waiting five years (as per provincial guidelines) to hook up. As the wastewater system has always been marketed by the RM of St. Andrews as a "user pay" system, this levy contradicts the idea completely. If residents choose to hook up prior to five years due to a failing septic field, then those users should pay individually. On the other hand, if this is deemed a "community improvement", like a recreation centre, then all RM constituents should be contributing to the system through annual taxes. You simply cannot have it both ways.

Additionally, we have reviewed the proposed rates that we would be charged to have our wastewater removed, and compared to the rates of Winnipeg or even West St. Paul residents, seem astronomically high. We implore you to reduce these proposed unaffordable rates for this minimal service being provided.

We chose to live outside Winnipeg's city limits. We enjoy the larger lot sizes with the space to grow and breathe. We understood that living on a lot with well water and a private waste system meant that we would be ultimately responsible for its upkeep and repair, but we would benefit from the negligible day-to-day usage costs that balance out the greater, though infrequent, expenses of maintaining the system. The proposed wastewater system will require us to continue to be financially responsible for the maintenance of equipment on our property plus the disproportionately high daily costs to expel our wastewater - a service that was previously free to us - with ZERO added benefit of town water or solid waste removal. When our field fails, we would prefer to install holding tanks for our wastewater (similar to those of our neighbours in St. Clements), enabling us to have these tanks pumped at our expense and continue to responsibly maintain our own property and waste with low daily operating costs.

In addition to terminating the unreasonable idea of a special service levy, I urge Council to consider allowing the holding tank system as an alternative to households like ours who cannot afford the excessive startup and continuing quarterly costs that the proposed system

demands.

Regards,

Justin and Christine Voadlo
5234 Highway 9
St. Andrews, MB

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-16-21 10:46:43 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 10:46:29

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Kerry Loewen

ContactEmail: Kerryc1@hotmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: I would like to object to the application on the rm of St.Andrews wastewater rates and operations. We have had to come up with \$7500 on a notice of 2 weeks, for infrastructure and our rates that are quoted are over the top!

Why are we now being charged for well water that has not been treated by any water treatment plant that is located on our property? That means my family of 5 will have a water bill of \$400 per month! That is outrageous!

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-16-21 10:52:09 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 10:51:55

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Kerry Loewen

ContactEmail: Kerrylc1@hotmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: Re:rm of St. Andrews wastewater project

It is my understanding that the wastewater utility will only be sustainable if the Municipal Board approves the \$100 levy (penalty) assessed on residents who are not hooked up. The Municipal Board has not had a hearing nor have they ruled on that issue yet (objectors can expect to receive notice in the mail if the Municipal Board will conduct a hearing). The PUB's philosophy is that utilities need to be self-sustaining and must be funded by users. Our system is not likely to be strictly user funded for several years unless the utility rates are set substantially higher than what the RM is proposing.

Also, the RM still does not have signed service sharing agreements with Winnipeg or with West St. Paul. Highly unlikely the April 1, 2021 start-up date will be met

So many questions! Why should we be responsible to pay the infrastructure fee now when there are no signed agreements? Can they even legally "start up" the system without the signed agreements in place? Why should we pay the infrastructure fee and the \$100 "penalty" before the system will be operational? How high are our rates really going to be? What happens if the rates aren't approved? to name a few. All of these concerns (and I know there are more) should have been addressed by the RM administration and communicated to the ratepayers affected long ago.

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-16-21 2:28:54 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 14:28:40

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Lou Morissette

ContactEmail: morissette.lou@gmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: Dear Sir/Madam:

This complaint is relative to the RM of St. Andrews PUB application dated Feb. 17, 2021. Please be advised that although the RM has applied to the Board it is, in my view, very premature. Currently, there are no signed agreements between the RM's of St. Andrews, West St. Paul and the City of Winnipeg. It is incomprehensible that an application was made to the PUB without the tangible infrastructure in place. How can residents be assured that this service will be made available should a rate be finalized.

There also remains a Wastewater Levy that has been applied to all residents that do not hook up immediately to the wastewater line. As this matter is before the Manitoba Municipal Board currently, how can PUB entertain an interim rate application? To do so, would be shooting at a moving target as the proposed rate is being subsidized by this levy.

It should also be noted, that the RM has gone on record as stating that the system will be running on April 1, 2021 and ready for connection. Very clearly they have overstepped due process/procedure. At this juncture, I would suggest that it would be premature to approve any rate sans a Public Hearing. Currently, there are still too many unknown variables at play. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Lou Morissette

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [paul troia](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: RM of St Andrews
Date: March-16-21 7:25:38 PM

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I am writing in regards to my opposition of the wastewater plan my RM has put forward. There are numerous unanswered questions and unknowns.

Sincerely
Paul Troia

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TO: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca

TO: MuniBrdGenMail@gov.mb.ca

TO: Councillor Brian Mayes
St. Vital Ward
Email: bmayeres@winnipeg.ca
Councillor Jason Schreyer
Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward
Email: jschreyer@winnipeg.ca
Councillor John Orlikow
River Heights-Fort Garry Ward
Email: jorlikow@winnipeg.ca

TO: Minister of Municipal Relations minmr@leg.gov.mb.ca

Submission to PUB, Municipal Board, Minister of Municipal Relations, City of Winnipeg

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

- The published notice was the first time residents were given the actual amount \$7264.32 that is due.
- Payment options are to pay the full amount by April 28th (60 days from the RM Notice) OR amortize it over 20 years on your property bill. Not many are fortunate enough to have \$7200 and change readily available;
- Those that cannot afford to pay the full amount are going to be even further impacted by the \$2016 in interest that 20 year repayment includes.
- There is no reason the RM couldn't have offered the option of paying off a portion now and adding the balance to your property bill. This option would have given those that cannot pay the FULL \$7200 right now in a lump sum far more flexibility.
- The increase in the connection fee payable to the City of Winnipeg is very high increases: **\$2,680 in 2021. It will rise to \$3,000 in 2022 and \$3,100 in 2023. THAT IS A WHOPPING INCREASE OF 11.94% IN THE FIRST YEAR!**; There is no recourse by the residents to contest the increases in each year. Could the RM not have negotiated a fairer payment/increase? Many people do not need to hook up within the first five years, and are being penalized by ridiculous increases if they choose not to. We have no idea what the ultimate fee will be if we choose to wait the 5 years, which by provincial legislation, we are allowed! .

- There is no mention of what the “pre-hookup inspection” entails. What equipment exactly is expected to be on our property and what is the expected configuration? What condition exactly is our holding tank expected to be in? Who provides the clearance that your tank meets all requirements?

METERS:

- There is still no official notice on where the meter is going to be placed on the property, other than a statement that the meter “may” be placed after the softener if it is discharged to an environmentally safe location (which is not defined, other than to say it shouldn’t be discharged to a public ditch”) Who does the inspection and makes that determination. As it is, residents can’t hook up to a municipal water supply; treatment of the crappy well water shouldn’t be an additional financial burden.
- Who is responsible for the care and maintenance of the meter if it is placed before the softener and it gets plugged with calcium or other deposits and/or if water pressure is lost? Who is responsible for its repair?
- When the RM prepared the models for the amount of water a typical family would be using, and the estimated quarterly payments, did they take into consideration:
 - That a water softener regeneration produces approx 25 gallons of waste water each regeneration, and regeneration will take place approx 3 X per week depending on water use. This equals at least 75 gal per week/300 gal per month/900 gal per quarter;
 - that an iron filter regeneration will produce approx 150 gal of waste per regeneration each cycle, so even at 2 X per week, would be 300 gal per week; 1200 gal per month or 3600 gal per quarter
 - that for an RO system each gallon of water that is used requires approx 4 gallons of waste. Even if the RO is only used for drinking water that produces a lot of waste! For instance, our family of two uses 5 gallons of drinking water every 3 days, so that is 15 gallons per week, which will produce 60 gallons of waste per week /240 gallons per month/720 per quarter. A family with children would use far more.
- None of this waste water currently produced is being discharged to our septic fields/holding tanks. Yet you are going to meter that water as though it will be going into the sewer system. Again, why is this being metered? why isn't our outflow being charged rather than intake? The explanation given by the RM is not satisfactory, which states

“Measuring inflow, rather than outflow, is a practical way for municipal utilities to measure the volume of wastewater generated by each property. Virtually all water going into a home goes out through drains and toilets – therefore, the volume of water entering a home is a good indicator of how much wastewater will end up in the municipal system” It’s also more economical to measure clean water flowing in, rather than effluent flowing out. The equipment costs far less, lasts longer and is easier to get at and maintain.

○ .

This statement cannot be accepted at face value! Especially insofar as the complex systems for water treatment require large volumes of water to be expelled, and those volumes to not go into the sewer system. There has been no cost comparison given to the residents respecting the inflow vs. outflow meters, their cost, and cost to maintain. That should definitely have been undertaken. Residents could have chosen to pay the difference in cost of the two meters, if it meant measuring ACTUAL outflow that they would be charged for.

- Did any of the comparisons you did with other municipalities take into consideration whether or not they are using these private water treatment systems., and the amount of backwash water that is produced that will NOT go into the sewer system?
- The CAO mentioned in a recorded meeting that the cost for metering softener discharge would amount to 40 cents a week. There has been absolutely no back up/calculation done to support this statement. Some residences require much more treatment than others depending on the hardness/mineral content of their wells. Some systems are very complex in order to treat the water here. A blanket statement that 40 cents a week would be the anticipated cost is completely unsupported.

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

- Depending on each resident’s plumbing configuration, there are additional costs if there has to be interior plumbing work to ensure exterior water taps come AFTER the meter. This was not taken into consideration in the projected costs, and is yet another financial burden;
- Some older properties still have their weeping tile discharging into their septic systems. I understand this water will therefore not be metered at the individual residence, yet it is going into the system, and the city of Winnipeg will be metering and charging the RM for that discharge, and that cost passed on to ALL properties. How is that fair to those who do not discharge ground water into the system? . These issues should have been considered and addressed by the RM at the outset.

- Some residents have had issues/substandard with contractors preparing their property, including laying a service line to the curbstop; contractors that the RM endorsed either through their own awarding of contracts (contractors vetted enough for the wastewater system but not for property preparation?) or through their website. When people have had issues and tried to complain, the RM has been non-responsive. What recourse do residents have for mandatory work they contracted out on their property, using companies the RM itself has endorsed, if and when there are issues with that work?
- What will become of our septic field or holding tank afterwards? Can they be used for future builds? Will they require (incredibly expensive) decontamination before alternative use?

RATES:

- There is no official notice on how the rates are determined. There was a townhall on the \$100 a year fee for those that are not connected, but there has been little/no public consultation in the rates themselves and an understanding of why the anticipated rates are ONLY SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN FULL SERVICE RATES IN THE CITY OF WINNIPEG (which has full water/sewer) for a service that only handles greywater
- We are also being compared to West St. Paul, whose rates are also lower than our projected rates
- There is no indication on whether or not these rates are regulated by the Public Utilities Board, which they should be, since the greywater is being treated in the City of Winnipeg. This would help ensure that rural greywater treatment is not subsidizing urban rates and development.
- **No one from the RM has ever explained the concept of “we are using a calculation to determine how much a homeowner will pay for its individual sewer charge” We do not know what that calculation is or how it is applied.**
-
- This project has been mismanaged since the beginning, but the current elected officials had the opportunity to address the above issues and bring some clarity, security and closure to residents and – as far as I can tell – very little effort has been made to do so.

INFRASTRUCTURE FEES:

- What happens if a resident with excess frontage or a developer divides and makes several lots - do all home owners in improvement area get a rebate since we have paid for it? Do they still have to pay the \$7200 infrastructure fee to the RM per lot. If the fee is in fact payable to the RM, then is the municipality benefitting since the infrastructure cost was divided among the existing houses

If there is. Any “over collection” of the same costs, shouldn’t that be credited to those who have already paid it?

- Why should we be responsible to pay the infrastructure fee now when there are no signed agreements ? The infrastructure fee should not be payable until the agreements are signed and the system is actually commissioned. Instead of making the infrastructure fee payable just because it happens to coincide with preparation of the annual tax statement, the RM could have issued a separate supplementary tax bill AT THE TIME THE AGREEMENTS ARE SIGNED AND THE SYSTEM READY FOR START UP. Then allow the resident 60 days to pay, and as previously suggested, the option for a partial payment now, with the balance added to taxes.
- Can they even legally “start up “the system without the signed agreements in place ?
- Why should we pay the infrastructure fee and the \$100 “penalty “ before the system will be operational ?
- How high are our rates really going to be ?
- What happens if the rates aren’t approved ?
- Many people are short of available lump sum cash due to COVID, and the amount of cash outlay at this time is a financial burden. Has there been any investigation to see if any COVID relief is available to those residents?

CITY OF WINNIPEG CAP ISSUES:

- The City of Winnipeg has placed a “cap” on the number of properties in the RM that can hook up to the system within the next 10 years to 1800. There are currently approx. 1900 or so homes in the affected area, which is tantamount to a halt in any development, thereby decreasing the number of available properties to share in the utility cost.
- Meanwhile the RM of St. Andrews at a recent meeting were discussing rezoning of properties for development of multi-family homes and smaller lot sizes. How is this possible with the current cap? Can the City of Winnipeg halt these initiatives?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S09V5jP9gow&feature=youtu.be>

The Presentation starts at the `1:03:54 mark and the future plans are discussed at the 1:14:22 mark.

- Wouldn't development in that manner preclude any existing homes from hooking up should they choose to?

From: [Ashley Lawrence](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\); Municipal Relations, Minister \(LEG\); Wharton, Jeff \(LEG\); office@jamesbezan.com](#)
Subject: RM of St Andrews waste water project
Date: March-17-21 4:14:54 PM

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Re: By Law #4286. Local improvement for South St Andrews Wastewater System

Phase #1

LID #2017-01

I have the following concerns and question about the wastewater system that the RM of St Andrews is currently implementing.

I have received a letter from the RM of St Andrews stating we are required to pay \$7,264.37 by April 28, 2021 or the amount will automatically be added to my annual property taxes at a rate of \$464.00 a year for 20 years.

I feel that being a covid year this is an unacceptable due date.

Why should we be responsible to pay this infrastructure fee now when there are no signed service sharing agreements with Winnipeg or West St Paul.

What happens to future homes in the area, do they have to pay the \$7,264.37 or are we paying the total costs, if they do have to pay will we receive a future rebate?

I have been reading articles concerning the project and have received conflicting information concerning

Charges for the meter,

Meter testing,

Hook- up fees.

Annual charges,

Annual \$100.00 fee if not hooking up right away,

I would really appreciate knowing the total cost to me for this project

This project has been a gong show from the beginning. Citizens have objected, questions asked with no answers.

I am in total objection to this but since I am forced to comply, I would like answers.

Ashley Lawrence

7 McLennan RD

St Andrews MB R1A 2W1

204-293-5826

From: [Bill and Kathy Groves](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#); [Wharton, Jeff \(LEG\)](#); office@jamesbezan.com
Subject: RM of St Andrews waste water project
Date: March-17-21 2:58:36 PM

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Re: By Law #4286. Local improvement for South St Andrews Wastewater System

Phase #2

Roll # 51434

LID #2017-01

I have the following concerns and question about the wastewater system that the RM of St Andrews is currently implementing.

I have received a letter from the RM of St Andrews stating I am required to pay \$7,264.37 by April 28, 2021 or the amount will automatically be added to my annual property taxes at a rate of \$464.00 a year for 20 years.

I feel that being a covid year this is an unacceptable due date.

Why should we be responsible to pay this infrastructure fee now when there are no signed service sharing agreements with Winnipeg or West St Paul.

What happens to future homes in the area, do they have to pay the \$7,264.37 or are we paying the total costs, if they do have to pay will we receive a future rebate?

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Charges for the meter,

Meter testing,

Hook-up fees.

Annual charges,

Annual \$100.00 fee if not hooking up right away,

I would really appreciate knowing the total cost to me for this project

This project has been a gong show from the beginning. Citizens have objected, questions asked with no answers.

I am in total objection to this but since I am forced to comply, I would like answers.

Kathy Groves

35 Hay Ave

St Andrews MB R1A 2Y9

From: [Jason Lavigne](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: St Andrews septic application
Date: March-17-21 11:38:13 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my objection to the RM of St Andrews septic system as proposed. From the very start of this project it has been done in secret and with no answers provided to residents. As the process has accelerated and near an end council has had more meetings and public consultations but, those have been more talking to residents rather than answering questions or concerns. When questions are asked we are told they will get back to us, in some cases it takes Freedom requests to get information, in other cases it leads to information being removed from The RMs website or residents being told that meeting minutes were simply "lost". This is unacceptable as a government and lacks the oversight we should expect as tax paying residents.

As residents we have 5 maybe more years to hook up to this system and now that it is getting close to being operational council is scrambling to find ways to pay for it. We were told last fall that we would be expected to pay over 7000 dollars as a one time fee which would be paid at the time of hook up, they then floated this idea of charging everyone in the affected area \$100 a year to operate the system regardless if we are hooked up or not. My question to you as a regulator, if Shaw (as an example) runs a fiber line by my house but I'm not a customer of theirs, could they come to me and say we are charging you XYZ amount because our line goes by your property...we all know the answer is no. Why is this septic system different, Council should have had this planned years ago.

Fast forward to the recent events, that 7000 plus thousand dollar bill we were told would be due at hook up is now being told its due in 60 days. In the same breath they are telling us they won't know next year's operating budget till they know how many people take advantage of the 20 year loan. There are 2 problems I see with this,

1) This is a 20 year loan arranged but not funded by the RM why would it matter how many take advantage of it...unless the RM stands to profit from an interest rate differential

2) they say take advantage of but, I would invite you to ask residents if they feel this is an advantage. I'm in a lucky situation where I can afford to and will pay it by the due date if required but, as everyone in the world is aware we are in the midst of a pandemic that has had devastating economic consequences, lenders are deferring payments, mortgage payments are being deferred, foreclosures/repossession/evictions have been banned, people are losing their job and their livelihoods and our RM has the audacity to demand 7000 dollars

Why am I using the phrase demand 7000 dollars, let me tell you. As I mentioned this was floated last year as being due upon hook up. Now all the sudden letters went out stating they were serving us with 60 days notice to come up with this payment. They've said don't worry we've arranged a 20 year loan option for you if you can't pay...remember the pandemic and

economic ruins. Residents are now left with 2 choices: pay up or be forced into a 20 year loan against your will...a loan I might add we know nothing about, can we pay it off early?, is there a lien on our house?, what's the cost of borrowing? These are just a few questions and the answers have never been communicated to us. In Canada I have the right to be shown all the terms and conditions of a loan I'm about to sign, we have disclosure laws yet the RM has hidden these details. Further to the loan option In Canada I can't be forced into a contract (a loan agreement constitutes a contract) under duress, well if some says pay up or else I'll put you in a loan and lien your property against your will (from the language in their info I assume they are putting liens on properties but, no one really knows), that would constitute duress. The RM has failed to deal in good faith and has rather resorted to bully tactics against their residents, this is simply unacceptable.

To make matters worse the 60 day notice they sent to residents was 60 days from the day it was mailed...yes mailed, a rather important document like this wasn't sent registered mail or even courier delivered, it was simply dropped in the mail box and if you didn't get it or didn't hear about it on a Facebook to bad we are putting lien on your property and enrolling you in a loan without your consent (again a loan we know nothing about). Again this simple action can hardly be described as good faith, I realize the option of registered mail or courier would have added cost but, given the gravity of the content I think it was warranted.

Winnipeg has approved St Andrews with service for upto 1800 homes, West St Paul has not given us anything. Im not required to hook up for 5 years, what if in five years I go to hook up and I'm home 1801 plus...now I've been forced to pay for a system I cant hook up to, will I get a refund?...this is why it should be due at connection. Further to that what about all the houses being built after we are forced to pay for the connection, will they have to pay?, if they do what will be done with the money. Will that money be redistributed evenly to the residents who have already paid the hook up fee to lower the cost or will it be put in general revenue and used for project in the RM, they already made reference to the fact that the building permits that have been pulled since the project started have lowered all our costs...will that continue to happen? The simple answer is as residents, tax payers and soon to be ratepayers we just don't know...even after requests. It seems to me that there is a lot of after thought about how to afford this system and how to fund it to get it going, stuff that should have been planned long ago. Given that they are charging residents for a hook up fee well before we are required than charging us a yearly fee for a service I am not legally required to hook up to and won't be using this system could hardly be thought to be self sustaining. The costs to the people who chose to hook up and use the system in the early years would be astronomical, their answer is to simply charge people not using the system which is well within our legal and required right, again how is this utility self sustainable if it is being funded by people not using it.

As a resident I am already in consultation with my lawyer and if this continues to proceed the way it is currently going I will be pursuing legal action and possibly a class action. I ask that you get The answers that we were unable to get and that you stop the bully tactics the RM is using and apply some common sense to this situation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns

Captain Jason Lavigne

5897 HWY 9

Lockport MB
R1A 2P6

Carol Baron
18 Oakfield Drive
St. Andrews Manitoba
R1A 2W9
204-334-0778 (phone)
204-782-1259 (cell)

March 17, 2021

RE: PROPOSED BY-LAW NO. 4350 (South St. Andrews Waste Water Utility).

The Manitoba Public Utilities Board
400-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4

Dear PUB:

Accept this letter requesting a public hearing concerning the proposed initial interim wastewater rates for the South St. Andrews waste water utility, as a lot of unanswered questions still exist and need to be fully explained and addressed to all in a public hearing.

The proposed by-law (#4349) to charge unconnected properties a \$100/year levy has not been approved and is related to the proposed waste water utility. I feel that the proposed annual levy should have been included or added to this Public Utility Board notice, minimizing the confusion to residents, instead of filing a separate application. All of the proposed costs should have been included in one application because they are all related to the overall fees that may be implemented.

I object to the following proposed rates/conditions under by-Law 4350 Notice of Application for the initial interim waste water rates for the St. Andrews South wastewater utility:

- Having to install a meter on my private well in my private residence.
- Quarterly Service Charge (\$80.82). How was it calculated, what is the charge based on and why so much? Is the proposed quarterly charge similar to what the residents of West St. Paul currently pay and the residents of Pruden Avenue (in St. Andrews) currently pay? Is the quarterly charge similar to what the residents of Winnipeg pay?
- Waste water rates (\$4.23 per cubic meter). How was it calculated, what is the charge based on and why so much? Keep in mind, that we are not getting a full sewer that will accept our solid and liquid wastes only the liquid waste water will be accepted. We will still have to pay and get our solids from our septic tanks emptied. The current City of Winnipeg full sewer (both solids and liquids) rates for 2021 per cubic meter is \$2.86. How do the rates proposed compare to what Winnipeg and St. St. Paul residents are currently paying?
- The Minimum Quarterly Charge (\$140.04) is unreasonable and unfair to many residents (seniors and residents who occupy their residences seasonally) who may not use the system during periods of time and will still have to pay the minimum regardless of usage or conservation.
- Utilities buy-in charge (\$2,680.00). How was it calculated, what is the charge based on and why so much? Is the proposed quarterly charge similar to what the residents of West St. Paul

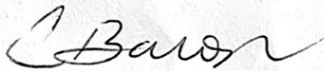
currently pay or City of Winnipeg residents currently pay. Is the rates that they pay include water and waste because, we will not receive water services or a full sewer.

- The meter testing charges. Why should we be expected to pay for meter testing when the meter should be fully operational, calibrated and accurate when installed.
- The minimum Meter tampering fee (\$500). They may be an instance when the meter may have to be removed in an emergency and this may be considered tampering. Charging a minimum fee when sometimes circumstances warrant the removal in an emergency is not fair nor reasonable. Is the \$500 fee the *minimum* as well as the *maximum* because there is no mention of a maximum fee being imposed.

In addition, the proposed Service Sharing Agreement (SSA) between the City of Winnipeg and the R.M. of St. Andrews has not even been approved yet. Nor has the SSA been approved with West St. Paul (not even mentioned in this notice) and the R.M. of St. Andrews.

Does the City of Winnipeg's North End Pollution Control Center have the extra capacity to properly treat our waste water for the proposed 1800 residents of St. Andrews? As well, does the North End Pollution Center have the capacity to treat the anticipated new extra hook ups for the residents of West St. Paul? Does the main pipe have enough capacity to handle the 1800 residents and the anticipated new hook-ups in West ST. Paul?

Thanks,



Carol Baron

From: [Dylan Hermiston](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: CONCERNS REGARDING: RM OF ST.ANDREWS APPLYING TO P.U.B RE: BY-LAW NO. 4350
Date: March-17-21 11:38:25 PM

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CONCERNS REGARDING: RM OF ST.ANDREWS APPLYING TO P.U.B RE: BY-LAW NO. 4350

So many concerns!

- Why does the RM still not have signed service sharing agreements with Winnipeg or with West St. Paul ? Highly unlikely the April 1, 2021 start-up date will be met.
- Why should we be responsible to pay the infrastructure fee now when there are no signed agreements ?
- Can they even legally “start up “the system without the signed agreements in place ?
- Why should we pay the infrastructure fee and the \$100 “ penalty “ before the system will even be operational ?
- How high are our rates really going to be ?
- What happens if the rates aren't approved ?

- Also, Shouldn't these concerns have been addressed by the RM administration and communicated to the ratepayers affected long ago?

Thanks very much,

The Hermistons

From: [Edie Telenko](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Cc: [selkirkmlaoffice@gmail.com](#); [james.bezan@parl.gc.ca](#); [Municipal Relations, Minister \(LEG\)](#)
Subject: Waste Water System - St. Andrews
Date: March-17-21 10:20:14 AM

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Hello,

The purpose of our email today is to express our objections to the proposed St. Andrews sewer rates.

There are so many questions that remain unanswered, one being why should we be responsible to pay the infrastructure fee now when there is no signed service sharing agreement with either Winnipeg or West St. Paul in place. Can the system even legally "startup" without the signed agreements in place? Then to expect residents be responsible to pay the infrastructure fee and then to add insult to injury to put the burden of a \$100 penalty to those residents who are either unwilling or not financially ready to connect to this system before the system will be operational? With no agreement in place, how high are our rates really going to be and what happens if the rates aren't approved.

The community as a whole should have been addressed by the RM administration and communicated to those ratepayers affected long ago, but I believe this community has lost the confidence in this council, as evidenced by behind closed door meetings, meeting minutes disappearing or no longer available on the RM website and even to the point of direct questions to the RM councilors being ignored and not answered to the people posing questions to them. How can we trust anything they do without a signed agreement. I don't believe anyone in their right mind would go into any monetary situation without a signed agreement in place.

Thank you

Very concerned community residents;
Glen & Edith Telenko
69 McLennan Road
St. Andrews, MB R1A 2W7
Home email – scooter_20076@hotmail.com
Edie Telenko
Administrative Coordinator, Capital Planning

Interlake-Eastern RHA

Box 5000
100 Easton Drive
Selkirk, MB R1A 2M2
P: (204) 785-7309
F: (204) 785-5585
etelenko@ierha.ca
www.ierha.ca

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From: [Jim Koshelanyk](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Date: March-17-21 6:41:24 PM

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I'm requesting a hearing on the wastewater costs at the RM of ST ANDREWS

Joseph Baron
18 Oakfield Drive
St. Andrews Manitoba
R1A 2W9
204-334-0778 (phone)
204-782-0523 (cell)

March 17, 2021

RE: PROPOSED BY-LAW NO. 4350 (South St. Andrews Waste Water Utility).

The Manitoba Public Utilities Board
400-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4

Dear PUB:

Accept this letter requesting a public hearing concerning the proposed initial interim wastewater rates for the South St. Andrews waste water utility as a lot of unanswered questions still exist and need to be fully explained and addressed to all in a public hearing.

The proposed by-law (#4349) to charge unconnected properties a \$100/year levy has not been approved. Currently, I am a taxpayer and I am opposed to the proposal to charge all residents in phase 1 and 2 the special service levy for the proposed waste water system. I feel it is unfair to charge a "User Fee" for a utility not being used. Charge accordingly, all the users that are planning on hooking up and using the waste water utility should pay when they decide to hook up – not beforehand. Unconnected property owners should not be expected to pay for a service they are not using. The proposed annual fee will be an unneeded financial burden. I also feel that the proposed annual levy should have been included or added to this Public Utility Board notice, minimizing the confusion to residents, instead of filing a separate application. All of the proposed costs should have been included in one application because they are all related to the overall fees that may be implemented.

I object to the following proposed rates/conditions under by-Law 4350 Notice of Application for the initial interim waste water rates for the St. Andrews South wastewater utility:

- Having to install a meter on my private well in my private residence.
- Quarterly Service Charge (\$80.82). How was it calculated, what is the charge based on and why so much? Is the proposed quarterly charge similar to what the residents of West St. Paul currently pay and the residents of Pruden Avenue (in St. Andrews) currently pay? Is the quarterly charge similar to what the residents of Winnipeg pay?
- Waste water rates (\$4.23 per cubic meter). How was it calculated, what is the charge based on and why so much? Keep in mind, that we are not getting a full sewer that will accept our solid and liquid wastes only the liquid waste water will be accepted. We will still have to pay and get our solids from our septic tanks emptied. The current City of Winnipeg full sewer (both solids and liquids) rates for 2021 per cubic meter is \$2.86. How do the rates proposed compare to what Winnipeg and St. St. Paul residents are currently paying?

- The Minimum Quarterly Charge (\$140.04) is unreasonable and unfair to many residents (seniors and residents who occupy their residents seasonally) who may not use the system during periods of time and will still have to pay the minimum regardless of usage or conservation.
- Utilities buy-in charge (\$2,680.00). How was it calculated, what is the charge based on and why so much? Is the proposed quarterly charge similar to what the residents of West St. Paul currently pay or City of Winnipeg residents currently pay. Is the rates that they pay include water and waste because, we will not receive water services or a full sewer.
- The meter testing charges. Why should we be expected to pay for meter testing when the meter should be fully operational, calibrated and accurate when installed.
- The minimum Meter tampering fee (\$500). They may be an instance when the meter may have to be removed in an emergency and this may be considered tampering. Charging a minimum fee when sometimes circumstances warrant the removal in an emergency is not fair nor reasonable. Is the \$500 fee the minimum as well as the maximum because there is no mention of a maximum fee being imposed.

In addition, the proposed Service Sharing Agreement (SSA) between the City of Winnipeg and the R.M. of St. Andrews has not even been approved yet. Nor has the SSA been approved with West St. Paul (not even mentioned in this notice) and the R.M. of St. Andrews.

Does the City of Winnipeg's North End Pollution Control Center have the extra capacity to properly treat our waste water for the proposed 1800 residents of St. Andrews? As well, does the North End Pollution Center have the capacity to treat the anticipated new extra hook ups for the residents of West St. Paul? Does the main pipe have enough capacity to handle the 1800 residents and the anticipated new hook-ups in West ST. Paul?

If the PUB decides to have a public hearing concerning this matter, I wish to be a potential presenter.

Thanks,



Joseph Baron

From: [K.T](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Opposed to RM of StAndrews Waterwaste plans
Date: March-17-21 10:57:49 AM

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Greetings,

I would like to express my feelings to the RM of St Andrews Water waste plans, I am opposed to the plans as there is too many uncertainties and unknowns.

Respectfully,
Kaysha Troia

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Complaint Form Submission
Date: March-17-21 7:11:08 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 19:10:54

language: English

contactedMunicipality: Yes

MunicipalityContactDate: 06/01/2021

MunicipalityContactName: Kurtis

MunicipalityContactPhone: 204 226 4184

MunicipalityContactMessage: They told me that I will get charged \$100 a month for not hooking up, I just moved here and have to spend all this money for a sewer system??
When I was in east st paul I did have this

consent: Yes

accountHolder: Yes

ContactFirstName: Kurtis

ContactLastName: Latham

ContactDayPhone: 204 226 4184

ContactAddress: 560 river road

ContactCity: Lockport

ContactProvince: Manitoba

ContactPostalCode: R1A2T4

ContactEmail: Kurtisrsl@gmail.com

DaytimeMessage: Yes

RepresentElse: No

Regarding: Water

MunicipalityName: St. Andrews

UtilityName: Sewer

complaint: Why is this so much? and why do I have to hook up?
Why does it cost more the east st paul municipality?

Why do I only get to pump out only grey water and still have to have a holding tank.
Why cant it take both?
I have a lot of questions and feel like this government is taking advantage of me !!!!

complaintWhoWhen: St.SNDREWS!!! and its sewer system!!!
Right when I moved in

complaintDealtWith: Richard, and no one else
My wife called and asked and all they did was send info. Like wow thanks

complaintReceived: I recieved a statement saying I own \$7400
And I can put it o my taxes.
Oh wow thanks.
And saying I have to pay for a meter and install for \$2600
Plus I have to pay for a hook up and no one cam tell me how much that will cost
I cant believe this.

complaintAppeal: No cause all I can do is listen to the st Andrews Council and its already in the works

complaintAssistance: You can help me by explaining to me what is happening,
I feel like I'm going to pay for something that I didnt want!!
And I'm not alone
Or at least give some time and not penalize me for not having \$15000 or spend on something I dont want!!

complaintUrgent: Yed

RelevantInfo: Like what my government is taking advantage of me

DocumentID: PUB_Complaints

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-17-21 4:58:50 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 16:58:36

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Lisa Sutton

ContactEmail: lisabaron1@shaw.ca

detailsOfComplaint: Concerning The South St. Andrews Waste Water Initial Interim Rates Notice of Application.

I am requesting a public hearing as I am a concerned City of Winnipeg Resident.

Lisa Baron

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [Marc Dion](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: RM of St. Andrews
Date: March-17-21 6:56:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from an External Sender. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source.

ATTENTION: ce courriel provient d'un expéditeur externe. Ne cliquez sur aucun lien et n'ouvrez pas de pièce jointe, excepté si vous connaissez l'expéditeur.

Hi there,

Hoping this is the correct email address. We've been threatened by our RM over large amounts of monies to be paid with 55 days' notice (for about \$7,600) - for future waste water connections at a future unknown rate. (Or alternatively add it over 20 years on out taxes)

We're hoping that the PUB can assist with these matters as it has been absolutely awful. We cannot accept the RM's current method of planning as it is simply "the cart before the horse". Until the RM has firm costs for each homeowner and knows where the sewer will be connected to - it's very difficult for us to accept these costs (or commit for that matter). The confusion, disorganization, lack of communication, lack of information, threats, and insanity has the entire RM in an uproar.

Please help as I do believe we're all homeowners who would like to connect once they know firm plans/costs in advance.

Regards,

Marc & Lisa Dion
45 Captain Kennedy Road
St. Andrews, MB. R1a2x6

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-17-21 6:15:47 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 18:15:34

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Marie Morissette

ContactEmail: marieupnorth@gmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: Dear Sir/Madam:

This complaint is relative to the RM of St. Andrews PUB application dated Feb. 17, 2021. Please be advised that although the RM has applied to the Board it is, in my view, very premature. Currently, there are no signed agreements between the RM's of St. Andrews, West St. Paul and the City of Winnipeg. It is incomprehensible that an application was made to the PUB without the tangible infrastructure in place. How can residents be assured that this service will be made available should a rate be finalized.

There also remains a Wastewater Levy that has been applied to all residents that do not hook up immediately to the wastewater line. As this matter is before the Manitoba Municipal Board currently, how can PUB entertain an interim rate application? To do so, would be shooting at a moving target, as the proposed rate is being subsidized by this levy.

It should also be noted that the RM has gone on record as stating that the system will be running on April 1, 2021 and ready for connection. Very clearly they have overstepped due process/procedure. At this juncture, I would suggest that it would be premature to approve any rate sans a Public Hearing. Currently, there are still too many unknown variables at play. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Marie Morissette

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-17-21 4:17:00 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 16:16:46

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Matthew Baron

ContactEmail: burgerblaster@icloud.com

detailsOfComplaint: South St. Andrews Initial Interim Wastewater Rates for Rural Municipality of St. Andrews.

I am requesting a public hearing to deal with the application.

Thanks Matthew Baron

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: laurie.lawrence@shaw.ca
To: [+WPG1273 - Municipal Board General Mail Box \(MR\)](#); [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#); [Municipal Relations, Minister \(LEG\)](#); [Wharton, Jeff \(LEG\)](#); office@jamesbezan.com
Cc: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: RM of St.Andrews waste project
Date: March-17-21 3:48:17 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an External Sender. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source.
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Re: By Law #4286. Local improvement for South St Andrews Wastewater System

Phase # 1
Roll# 19600
LID# 2016-01

have the following concerns and question about the wastewater system that the RM of St Andrews is currently implementing.

I have received a letter from the RM of St Andrews stating I am required to pay \$7,264.37 by April 28, 2021 or the amount will automatically be added to my annual property taxes at a rate of \$464.00 a year for 20 years.

- I feel that being a covid year this is an unacceptable due date.
- Why should we be responsible to pay this infrastructure fee now when there are no signed service sharing agreements with Winnipeg or West St Paul.
- What happens to future homes in the area, do they have to pay the \$7,264.37 or are we paying the total costs, if they do have to pay will we receive a future rebate?
- I have been reading articles concerning the project and have received conflicting information concerning
 - Charges for the meter,
 - Meter testing,
 - Hook- up fees.
 - Annual charges,
 - Annual \$100.00 fee if not hooking up right away,
 - I would really appreciate knowing the total cost to me for this project

This project has been a gong show from the beginning. Citizens have objected, questions asked with no answers.

I am in total objection to this but since I am forced to comply, I would like answers.

Maynard & Loreen Lawrence
11 McLennan Rd
St.Andrews

From: [Mike Staniul](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Rm of St Andrews rate proposal
Date: March-17-21 4:56:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an External Sender. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source.

ATTENTION: ce courriel provient d'un expéditeur externe. Ne cliquez sur aucun lien et n'ouvrez pas de pièce jointe, excepté si vous connaissez l'expéditeur.

Good afternoon

I am writing to you to voice my objection to the rate that the Rm council had proposed to the PUB.

It is my understanding that the wastewater utility will only be sustainable if the Municipal Board approves the \$100 levy (penalty) assessed on residents who are not hooked up. The Municipal Board has not had a hearing nor have they ruled on that issue yet (objectors can expect to receive notice in the mail if the Municipal Board will conduct a hearing). The PUB's philosophy is that utilities need to be self-sustaining and must be funded by users. Our system is not likely to be strictly user funded for several years unless the utility rates are set substantially higher than what the RM is proposing.

Also, the RM still does not have signed service sharing agreements with Winnipeg or with West St. Paul. Highly unlikely the April 1, 2021 start-up date will be met

So many questions! Why should we be responsible to pay the infrastructure fee now when there are no signed agreements? Can they even legally "start up" the system without the signed agreements in place? Why should we pay the infrastructure fee and the \$100 "penalty" before the system will be operational? How high are our rates really going to be? What happens if the rates aren't approved? to name a few. All of these concerns (and I know there are more) should have been addressed by the RM administration and communicated to the ratepayers affected long ago.

THANK YOU
Michael Staniul

From: [Pam Gardiner](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: R.M. of St. Andrews - waste water system project
Date: March-17-21 11:32:09 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from an External Sender. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source.

ATTENTION: ce courriel provient d'un expéditeur externe. Ne cliquez sur aucun lien et n'ouvrez pas de pièce jointe, excepté si vous connaissez l'expéditeur.

To whom it may concern:

My husband and I are long time residents of St. Andrews and strongly oppose the Waste Water System that has been approved by our Municipality. It is not a fair system for the residents of this community and although we have been advised of some fees and expenses that we will incur, we have not been given a clear and total estimate of all the costs anticipated.

Currently, there is no signed agreement with the City of Winnipeg and we do not understand why we are being forced into paying high costs for infrastructure when no one has yet to confirm that the City of Winnipeg can even handle our wastewater at the north end plant. Additionally, the City of Winnipeg advises that there is a cap of 1800 homes and there are 1900 plus homes being forced into paying for this project. So, does that mean 100 or more homeowners will pay for a system that is not capable of providing service?

Shame on those individuals who are responsible for creating such a costly disaster for residents.

Our physical location is much closer to Selkirk and we were not even given the courtesy of considering this option, which many believe would have been far less costly and a more efficient method of addressing waste water.

We are disgusted with the way this whole matter has been managed and DO NOT SUPPORT it in anyway, this includes the \$100 penalty to homeowners for not hooking up.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

Terry and Pam Gardiner

10 Thoma Drive

Lockport, Manitoba

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-17-21 10:42:27 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 10:42:14

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Rhonda Thomas

ContactEmail: srthomas@mts.net

detailsOfComplaint: Good day:

My name is Rhonda Thomas.
I reside at 3 Monkman Drive, Lockport, MB, R1A 3Z7.

This complaint is relative to the RM of St. Andrews PUB application dated Feb. 17, 2021. Please be advised that although the RM has applied to the Board it is, in my view, very premature. Currently, there are no signed agreements between the RM's of St. Andrews, West St. Paul and the City of Winnipeg. It is incomprehensible that an application was made to the PUB without the tangible infrastructure in place. How can residents be assured that this service will be made available should a rate be finalized.

There also remains a Wastewater Levy that has been applied to all residents that do not hook up immediately to the wastewater line. As this matter is before the Manitoba Municipal Board currently, how can PUB entertain an interim rate application? To do so, would be shooting at a moving target, as the proposed rate is being subsidized by this levy.

It should also be noted that the RM has gone on record as stating that the system will be running on April 1, 2021 and ready for connection. Very clearly they have overstepped due process/procedure. At this juncture, I would suggest that it would be premature to approve any rate sans a Public Hearing. Currently, there are still too many unknown variables at play. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Rhonda Thomas

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-17-21 11:46:20 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 11:46:06

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Richard Hemmerling

ContactEmail: tara_38@hotmail.com

detailsOfComplaint: Dear Sir/Madam:

This complaint is relative to the RM of St. Andrews PUB application dated Feb. 17, 2021. Please be advised that although the RM has applied to the Board it is, in my view, very premature. Currently, there are no signed agreements between the RM's of St. Andrews, West St. Paul and the City of Winnipeg. It is incomprehensible that an application was made to the PUB without the tangible infrastructure in place. How can residents be assured that this service will be made available should a rate be finalized.

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DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form

From: [+WPG969 - Form Submissions \(CEN\)](#)
To: [+WPG1002 - Public UTILITIES \(FIN\)](#)
Subject: Share Your Views Form Submission
Date: March-17-21 10:39:57 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Form Submitter (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca) on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 10:39:43

reasonForContact: Share your views

utilityType: Water and Wastewater Utility

ContactFirstName: Scott Thomas

ContactEmail: srthomas@mts.net

detailsOfComplaint: To whom it may concern:

I reside at 3 Monkman Drive, Lockport, MB, R1A 3Z

This complaint is relative to the RM of St. Andrews PUB application dated Feb. 17, 2021. Please be advised that although the RM has applied to the Board it is, in my view, very premature. Currently, there are no signed agreements between the RM's of St. Andrews, West St. Paul and the City of Winnipeg. It is incomprehensible that an application was made to the PUB without the tangible infrastructure in place. How can residents be assured that this service will be made available should a rate be finalized.

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Yours truly,

Scott Thomas

DocumentID: PUB_Share_Your_Views_Form
