

Order No. 103/17

**APPROVAL FOR
TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF
POPLAR RIDGE PROPERTIES INC. – WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO
MUNICIPALITY OF HARRISON PARK – ONANOLE UTILITY**

September 20, 2017

BEFORE: Carol Hainsworth, C.B.A., Acting Chair
Allan Morin, B.A., ICD.D., Member
Rhéal Teffaine, Q.C., Member

1.0 Executive Summary

The Public Utilities Board (Board) approves the transfer of ownership of the water utility currently owned by Poplar Ridge Properties Inc. (Poplar Ridge) to the Onanole Utility (Utility), located in the Municipality of Harrison Park (Municipality). This transfer is effective October 1, 2017.

The current rates for the Onanole Utility as approved by Board Order No. 142/16 are as follows:

	Onanole current rates	Effective January 1, 2018	Effective January 1, 2019
Water \$/1,000 gallons	\$ 6.54	\$ 6.93	\$ 7.05
Quarterly service charge	\$ 32.50	\$ 32.50	\$ 32.50
Minimum quarterly charge *	\$ 52.12	\$ 53.29	\$ 53.65

*Based on 3,000 gallons

2.0 Background

Poplar Ridge owns and operates a private water system servicing approximately 52 properties in a residential subdivision located in the Municipality. Poplar Ridge developed the subdivision under development agreements entered into with the Municipality. Under these development agreements, Poplar Ridge constructed, operated and maintained a private water distribution system.

Poplar Ridge approached the Municipality, and asked that it take over the Private Water System and connect it to the Municipality's water system. The Municipality is prepared to take over the Private Water System and operate it as part of the Municipal Water System.

The proposal is for the common water lines located in the Poplar Ridge subdivision to be turned over to the Utility. The individual water service lines from the curb stop to each residence remain as private property of each property owner.

On June 30, 2017, Poplar Ridge informed the Board of the intention of the parties to sign an agreement concerning the ownership of the water distribution system.

Once Board approval has been received, Poplar Ridge subdivision will be connected to, and customers of, the Municipality's Onanole Utility. They will be serviced with treated water by the Utility and charged Utility rates approved by the Board in Order No. 142/16.

A Notice of Application was issued by the Board dated July 18, 2017. There were no responses received with regards to the application.

The Municipal Council on August 8, 2017 passed Resolution No. 196/2017 authorizing the Municipality to enter into an agreement with Poplar Ridge.

3.0 Board Findings

The Board will approve the transfer of the ownership and operation of Poplar Ridge water distribution system to the Municipality of Harrison Park – Onanole Utility as detailed in the agreement entered into by the Municipality and Poplar Ridge effective October 1, 2017.

The Board would like to thank the Municipal staff and Poplar Ridge for their conscientiousness in advising the Board of the transfer of ownership of the water utility, and working with Board staff to resolve this issue quickly and efficiently.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

4.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The ownership and operation of the Poplar Ridge Properties Inc. water distribution system be transferred to the Municipality of Harrison Park – Onanole Utility.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

“Carol Hainsworth, C.B.A.”

Acting Chair

“Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA”

Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 103/17
issued by The Public Utilities Board

Acting Secretary