

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
MUNICIPALITY OF RUSSELL BINSKARTH
AMALGAMATION OF RUSSELL AND BINSKARTH UTILITIES
REVISED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES**

September 27, 2019

The Municipality of Russell Binscarth (Municipality) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) to approve the amalgamation of Russell Water and Wastewater Utility and Binscarth Water and Wastewater Utility to become the Russell Binscarth Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility). The Municipality has also applied for revised water and wastewater rates, as set out in By-law No. 64/02/19, read the first time on August 13, 2019. The Russell Utility rates were last approved in 2014 in Board Order No. 69/14, and the Binscarth Utility rates were last approved in 2015 in Board Order No. 129/15.

The current rates and proposed rates are as follows:

	Binscarth Utility	Russell Utility	Amalgamated Utility		
	Current rates		Proposed Rates		
	By-Law No. 644-14	By-Law No. 1573/07/13	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 24.64	\$ 22.00	\$ 23.14	\$ 24.28	\$ 25.42
Water (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 17.00	\$ 13.27	\$ 16.24	\$ 18.16	\$ 20.09
Wastewater (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 3.38	\$ 2.89	\$ 2.73	\$ 2.57	\$ 2.42
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$ 85.78	\$ 70.48	\$ 80.05	\$ 86.47	\$ 92.95
Wastewater Only Customers **	n/a	\$ 67.66	\$ 50.44	\$ 49.98	\$ 49.62
Bulk Water (per 100 gallons over 300 gallons)***	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.84	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.30	\$ 2.50
Surcharge (per 1,000 gallons)****	\$ -	\$ 1.05	\$ 0.89	\$ 0.89	\$ 0.89
Surcharge (per 1,000 gallons)*****	\$ -	\$ 3.25	\$ 2.49	\$ 2.49	\$ 2.49

*Based on 3,000 gallons

**Current rates based on 15,800 gallons, proposed rates based on 10,000 gallons

***Bulk water minimum charge for Russell was \$4.00, proposed minimum is \$6.00 up to 300 gallons.

Binscarth bulk water charge was \$17.50 per 1,000 gallons

****Debt recovery surcharge approved in Order 49/16 to be collected over 20 years for Water Supply Wells

*****Debt recovery surcharge approved **in principle** in Order 127/16 to be collected over 20 years for Water Treatment Plant Debt – MUNICIPALITY HAS NOT RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL TO CHARGE THIS SURCHARGE

Clauses were added or revised in By-Law No. 64/02/19. Please review the proposed By-Law at the Municipality’s office for detailed information.

Details of the Municipality's application are available for review at the Municipal office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the Municipality.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the Municipality of Russell Binscarth's application for water and wastewater rates please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. *Please note all comments will be forwarded to the Municipality.*

Questions or comments should be sent on or before **October 27, 2019**.

The Public Utilities Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing a rate application to the Board,
- a public notification of proposed rate changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process, and
- the issuance of an Order which outlines the Board's decision on the rate application and the rates to be charged.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The Board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the Board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are reduced.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on rates to be charged.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE APPLICANT.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

"Original Signed By:"

Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA

Assistant Associate Secretary
Manitoba Public Utilities Board