

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Regular Council Meeting

August 18, 2020

Report prepared by: Bryce Mackan, Manager of Utilities



Utility Rate Adjustment and Master Schedule of Fees Update

Recommendation from Administration

That Council approve a 15% increase to the current Wheatland County water and sewer utility rates effective January 1, 2021; and

Further, that Council approve the resulting necessary update to the water and sewer utility rates in the Master Schedule of Fees.

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

Report

Division: County-wide

Council has a fiscal strategy to eventually achieve 100% cost recovery for water and sewer utility systems. Review of the 2019 budget revealed a combined annual deficit of approximately \$380,000 for water and sewer utilities throughout the County. A 15% increase, remaining consistent with the 15% increase adjustment that occurred between 2017 and 2018, is expected to result in an approximate combined increase in revenue of \$51,000. Between 2018 and 2020 there were no further rate increases.

The attached Schedule of Fees highlights the fees proposed to be updated and their resulting rates for 2021. The following table shows a comparison between the current rates and the proposed 2021 rates after a 15% increase.

ITEM	CURRENT FEE/CHARGE	2021 FEE/CHARGE
Waterworks/Sewer/Plumbing Bulk Water Service Sale Rate	\$6.11/cubic metre	\$7.03/cubic metre
Water Service - Flat Rate (CARSELAND, SPEARGRASS, GLEICHEN, ROSEBUD)	\$21.40/monthly	\$24.61/monthly
Wastewater Service - Flat Rate (CARSELAND, SPEARGRASS, GLEICHEN, ROSEBUD)	\$14.26/monthly	\$16.40/monthly
Wastewater Service - Flat Rate (CLUNY)	\$21.22/monthly	\$24.40/monthly
Water Service - Consumption Rate (CARSELAND, SPEARGRASS, GLEICHEN, ROSEBUD)	\$1.93/cubic metre	\$2.22/cubic metre
Water Service - Western Irrigation District Conveyance (GLEICHEN)	\$0.48/cubic metre	\$0.55/cubic metre
Wastewater Service - Consumption Rate (CARSELAND, SPEARGRASS, GLEICHEN, ROSEBUD)	\$1.36/cubic metre	\$1.56/cubic metre
Water Service - Capital Levy (CARSELAND, SPEARGRASS, GLEICHEN, ROSEBUD)	\$15.31/monthly	\$17.61/monthly
Water Service - Capital Levy (CLUNY)	\$16.70/monthly	\$19.21/monthly

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Waterworks, Sewer and Plumbing Bylaw 2017-19

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

The recommendation supports Council's strategic priority of ultimately achieving 100% cost recovery for water and sewer utilities.

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

The proposed increase will impact utility account holders, and therefore must be communicated effectively prior to proposed implementation on January 1, 2021. Administration will prepare a notice of the increase to be posted on our website and social media pages, and to be included as a mail-out to all utility account holders.

Organizational

The Master Schedule of Fees must be updated to reflect this change and posted for the January 1, 2021 effective date. Increased staff workload will be required to prepare communications and respond to the public inquiries.

Financial

An increase to revenue of the water and wastewater budgets that will close the \$380,000 gap between revenue and expenses by approximately \$51,000, based on 2019 consumption and utility account values.

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

If approved, administration will communicate this increase on our website, social media pages and in at least one mail-out to utility account holders. The Wheatland County Master Schedule of Fees will be updated with an effective date of January 1, 2021.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Utility Rate Increase and Master Schedule of Fees Update.docx
Attachments:	- Water and Wastewater - 2021 Schedule of Fees.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Aug 12, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MZ' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Michael Ziehr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brian Henderson' in a cursive script.

Brian Henderson