

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD**IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT**

- and -

THE CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY on behalf of its **WATER UTILITY** has applied for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and amendments to its Schedule of Rules and Regulations

BEFORE:



Bruce H. Fisher, MPA, CPA, CMA, Member

ORDER

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality, on behalf of its Water Utility, applied to the Board for approval to amend its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and its Schedule of Rules and Regulations.

After due public notice, a hearing was held on February 22, 2023.

The Schedule of Rates and Charges, including the public fire protection charge, as amended and filed in the Responses to Information Requests, received December 29, 2022, and attached hereto as Schedules "A", "B" and "C" be approved, for Water and Water Services supplied on and after April 1, 2023, April 1, 2024, and April 1, 2025, respectively.

The Schedule of Rules and Regulations, as filed in the Responses to Information Requests and attached hereto as Schedule "D", be approved effective April 1, 2023.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 28th day of March, 2023.

Crystal Henwood
Clerk of the Board


SCHEDULE "A"
CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY WATER UTILITY

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after April 1, 2023)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

When payment is made after 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill, the rates will include interest charges of 1.25 % per month, or part thereof.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Utility" means the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Water Utility of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

1. **RATES:**

(a) <u>Unmetered</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>
Based on 68 cubic meters per quarter	173.11
(b) <u>Base Charges</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>
Size of Meter	
5/8"	64.97
3/4"	95.82
1"	157.53
1.5"	311.80
2"	496.92
3"	990.57
4"	1,545.93
6"	3,088.61
8"	5,556.88
(c) <u>Consumption Rate</u>	
1st Block (0 to 35,000 c.m./year)	\$1.59 per cubic metre
2nd Block (>35,000 c.m. / year)	\$1.03 per cubic metre
Partially Treated	\$0.56 per cubic metre
(d) <u>Minimum Bill</u>	

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality shall pay annually to the Utility for fire protection on or before October 1, 2023 the sum of \$7,076,391.

3. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SERVICE

Each building having a sprinkler system installed shall pay annually for the service as follows:

Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 6" or less in diameter	\$200.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 8" or more in diameter	\$250.00

4. WATER FOR BUILDINGS OR WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Utility may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for the construction of a building or other works. This person shall deposit with the Utility such sum as may be determined by the Utility as is sufficient to defray the cost of making the necessary connection to any water service or main together with the cost of the meter to be installed to measure the water consumed. Upon completion of the work and the return of the meter to the Utility, a refund will be made after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the water service box, the meter and of testing the same and payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

5. PRIVATE HYDRANT CONNECTION RATES

Per hydrant per year \$200.00.

6. RATES FOR WATER SUPPLIED FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Whenever the use of any fire hydrant is desired for supplying water for any purpose, excepting those of the Fire Department for fire use, the Utility may grant a permit containing such terms and conditions as it may provide, including arrangements regarding supervision of the opening and closing of the hydrant, and a service charge for commercial consumers of \$50.00 for connection and disconnection and a consumption charge for the amount of water used, as estimated by the water Utility, at meter consumption rates.

7. CHARGES FOR RE-ESTABLISHING WATER SERVICE

When water service has been suspended for any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Utility, such water service shall not be re-established until a reconnection charge of \$50.00 has been paid to the Utility.

8. CONNECTION FEE

The Utility shall charge a \$50.00 fee for the creation of a water account, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection of the system may have occurred.

9. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer requests the water be turned off from any premises for an extended period of time, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water, and no additional charge shall be made for turning it on again when this is requested.

10. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$50.00 (\$150.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services not provided for elsewhere in the schedules or the rules and regulations except for water service repairs requested by the Utility. In the case where the shutting off is requested because there is no operable shut off valve serving the dwelling, an isolation valve must be installed.

11. THEFT: The Utility may charge penalties in addition to the applicable water charges for each illegal water connection as follows:

i)	1 st Offence	\$300.00
ii)	2 nd Offence	\$750.00

12. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Utility may charge a \$25.00 administration fee plus any additional fees charged by the bank for cheques that, due to non-negotiability, have been rejected by the Utility's bank.

13. CHARGE FOR MISSED APPOINTMENT BY CUSTOMERS

Where an appointment has been made by a customer to have a water service hooked up or a meter inspected, or water turned on to a property, or other visits to the property for the inception or maintenance of water service to the property, and the customer fails to keep the appointment or the plumbing is not completed to allow for installation of a water meter and the Utility's staff have to return to the property, there may be a charge of \$50.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Utility, it is required.

(Q) SCHEDULE "B"

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY WATER UTILITY

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after April 1, 2024)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

When payment is made after 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill, the rates will include interest charges of 1.25 % per month, or part thereof.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Utility" means the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Water Utility of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

1. **RATES:**

(a) **Unmetered** Quarterly

Based on 65 cubic meters per quarter	165.29
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(b) **Base Charges** Quarterly

Size of Meter

5/8"	61.57
3/4"	90.75
1"	149.12
1.5"	295.04
2"	470.14
3"	937.07
4"	1,462.38
6"	2,921.55
8"	5,256.24

(c) **Consumption Rate**

1st Block (0 to 120,000 c.m./year)	\$ 1.60	per cubic metre
2nd Block (>120,000 c.m. /	\$ 1.06	per cubic metre

year)
Partially Treated \$ 0.54 per cubic metre

(d) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality shall pay to the water Utility for fire protection on or before October 1, 2024 the sum of \$7,076,391.

3. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SERVICE

Each building having a sprinkler system installed shall pay annually for the service as follows:

Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 6" or less in diameter	\$200.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 8" or more in diameter	\$250.00

4. WATER FOR BUILDINGS OR WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Utility may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for the construction of a building or other works. This person shall deposit with the Utility such sum as may be determined by the Utility as is sufficient to defray the cost of making the necessary connection to any water service or main together with the cost of the meter to be installed to measure the water consumed. Upon completion of the work and the return of the meter to the Utility, a refund will be made after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the water service box, the meter and of testing the same and payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

5. PRIVATE CONNECTION HYDRANT RATES

Per hydrant per year \$200.00.

6. RATES FOR WATER SUPPLIED FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

Whenever the use of any fire hydrant is desired for supplying water for any purpose, excepting those of the Fire Department for fire use, the Utility may grant a permit containing such terms and conditions as it may provide, including arrangements regarding supervision of the opening and closing of the hydrant, and a service charge for commercial consumers of \$50.00 for connection and disconnection and a consumption charge for the amount of water used, as estimated by the water Utility, at meter consumption rates.

7. CHARGES FOR RE-ESTABLISHING WATER SERVICE

When water service has been suspended for any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Utility, such water service shall not be re-established until a reconnection charge of \$50.00 has been paid to the Utility.

8. CONNECTION FEE

The Utility shall charge a \$50.00 fee for the creation of a water account, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection of the system may have occurred.

9. DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer, requests for the water be turned off from any premises for an extended period of time, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water, and no additional charge shall be made for turning it on again when this is requested.

10. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$50.00 (\$150.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services not provided for elsewhere in the schedules or the rules and regulations except for water service repairs requested by the Utility. In the case where the shutting off is requested because there is no operable shut off valve serving the dwelling, an isolation valve must be installed.

11. THEFT: The Utility may charge penalties in addition to the applicable water charges for each illegal water connection as follows:

i)	1 st Offence	\$300.00
ii)	2 nd Offence	\$750.00

12. CHARGE FOR NON-NEGOTIABLE CHEQUES

The Utility may charge a \$25.00 administration fee plus any additional bank fees for cheques that, due to non-negotiability, have been rejected by the Utility's bank.

13. CHARGE FOR MISSED APPOINTMENT BY CUSTOMERS

Where an appointment has been made by a customer to have a water service hooked up or a meter inspected, or water turned on to a property, or other visits to the property for the inception or maintenance of water service to the property, and the customer fails to keep the appointment or the plumbing is not completed to allow for installation of a water meter and the Utility's staff have to return to the property, there may be a charge of \$50.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Utility, it is required.

 SCHEDULE "C"

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY WATER UTILITY

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after April 1, 2025)

RATES

The rates set out below are the rates approved by the Board for water and water services when payment is made within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

When payment is made after 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill, the rates will include interest charges of 1.25 % per month, or part thereof.

Each bill shall show the amount payable within 30 days from the date rendered as shown on the bill.

In this Schedule, the word "Utility" means the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Water Utility of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

I. RATES:

(a) <u>Unmetered</u>	Based on 64 cubic meters per quarter	<u>Quarterly</u>
		169.10
(b) <u>Base Charges</u>		<u>Quarterly</u>
Size of Meter		
5/8"		62.25
3/4"		91.72
1"		150.67
1.5"		298.04
2"		474.89
3"		946.47
4"		1,477.01
6"		2,950.72
8"		5,308.65
(c) Consumption Rate		
1st Block	\$ 1.67	per cubic metre
Partially Treated	\$ 0.56	per cubic metre

(d) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality shall pay annually to the water Utility for fire protection on or before October 1, 2025 the sum of \$7,079,957.

For subsequent years, the annual public fire protection rate for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality shall be based on the above or:

- (a) the sum of 37.5% of transmission and distribution, taxes and depreciation expenses of the Utility and return on rate base of the immediately preceding year, plus
- (b) 10 % of all other expenses, whichever is the greater.

3. RATES FOR SPRINKLER SERVICE

Each building having a sprinkler system installed shall pay annually for the service as follows:

Each building serviced by a sprinkler service pipe of 6" or less in diameter	\$200.00
Each building serviced by a sprinkler service of 8" or more in diameter	\$250.00

4. PRIVATE CONNECTION HYDRANT RATES

Per hydrant per year \$200.00

5. WATER FOR BUILDINGS OR WORKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Utility may furnish water to any person requiring a supply thereof for the construction of a building or other works. This person shall deposit with the Utility such sum as may be determined by the Utility as is sufficient to defray the cost of making the necessary connection to any water service or main together with the cost of the meter to be installed to measure the water consumed. Upon completion of the work and the return of the meter to the Utility, a refund will be made after deducting the cost, if any, of repairing the water service box, the meter and of testing the same and payment of the base and connection charges and the consumption rates in respect to such installation.

6. **RATES FOR WATER SUPPLIED FROM FIRE HYDRANTS**

Whenever the use of any fire hydrant is desired for supplying water for any purpose, excepting those of the Fire Department for fire use, the Utility may grant a permit containing such terms and conditions as it may provide, including arrangements regarding supervision of the opening and closing of the hydrant, and a service charge for commercial consumers of \$50.00 for connection and disconnection and a consumption charge for the amount of water used, as estimated by the water Utility, at meter consumption rates.

7. **CHARGES FOR RE-ESTABLISHING WATER SERVICE**

When water service has been suspended for any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Utility, such water service shall not be re-established until a reconnection charge of \$50.00 has been paid to the Utility.

8. **CONNECTION FEE**

The Utility shall charge a \$50.00 fee for the creation of a water account, notwithstanding the fact that no physical disconnection of the system may have occurred.

9. **DISCONNECTION FEE**

Whenever a customer requests the water be turned off from any premises for an extended period of time, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning off the water, and no additional charge shall be made for turning it on again when this is requested.

10. **SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:**

A special service charge of \$50.00 (\$150.00 if such work is performed after regular working hours) shall be made to each customer receiving a necessary or requested service, such as the shutting off or turning on of water service or other special services not provided for elsewhere in the schedules or the rules and regulations except for water service repairs requested by the Utility. In the case where the shutting off is requested because there is no operable shut off valve serving the dwelling, an isolation valve must be installed.

11. **THEFT:** The Utility may charge penalties in addition to the applicable water charges for each illegal water connection as follows:

i)	1 st Offence	\$300.00
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Where an appointment has been made by a customer to have a water service hooked up or a meter inspected, or water turned on to a property, or other visits to the property for the inception or maintenance of water service to the property, and the customer fails to keep the appointment or the plumbing is not completed to allow for installation of a water meter and the Utility's staff have to return to the property, there may be a charge of \$50.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Utility, it is required.

