

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Finance

Date: January 16, 2024

Subject: 2024 Water, Sewer and Garbage Bylaw Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

Utility services provided by local governments are intended to be fully funded through user fees, meaning the full cost of the programs, including the costs related to managing the life cycle of capital assets are covered by those user fees. User fees are typically adjusted annually to offset any changes in the cost of delivering the service.

At the January 8th Council meeting staff presented Mayor and Council with a variety of options for bylaw rate increases for utility services. The approved rate increase are listed below:

- Water – 12%
 - The increase to water rates covers all necessary operational costs and projects and provides a transfer to reserves in the amount of \$287,391 for current and future capital projects. This increase also applies to bulk water sales, water turn on and water turn off services as noted on Schedule B of the bylaw.
- Sewer – 9%
 - The increase to sewer rates covers all necessary operational costs and projects and provides a transfer to reserves in the amount of \$249,472 for current and future capital projects. This increase also applies to Other Sewer Related Service Fees such as lagoon dumping as noted on Schedule B of the bylaw.
- Residential Garbage – 6.5%
 - The increase to residential garbage rates covers all the necessary operational costs and provides a transfer to reserves in the amount of \$100,536 for replacement of garbage truck and garbage bins.

- Commercial Garbage – 7%
 - The increase to commercial garbage rates covers all the necessary operational costs and provides a transfer to reserves in the amount of \$25,715 for replacement of commercial garbage truck.

Below is the impact of the bylaw rate increases to residential and commercial customers for water, sewer and garbage:

Residential Customers

Water billing increase	\$48.98
Sewer billing increase	\$23.99
Garbage billing increase (weekly service)	\$12.24
Overall annual increase of \$85.21 or \$7.10/month	

*bi-weekly garbage service would see an increase of \$83.29 or \$6.94/month

Commercial Customers

Water billing increase (minimum charges)	\$43.86
Sewer billing increase (minimum charges)	\$28.50
Garbage billing increase (2yrd bin 1 pickup per week)	\$76.38
Overall annual increase of \$148.74 or \$24.79/bi-monthly	

*3yrd bin, 1 pickup/week customers would see an increase of \$168.96 or \$28.16 bi-monthly

*4yrd bin, 1 pickup/week customers would see an increase of \$189.12 or \$31.52 bi-monthly

Rates will become effective January 1, 2024. Residential customers will have their new rates shown on their 2024 property tax bill and commercial customers will have the new rates shown on their January/February utility billing.

HOUSEKEEPING

When reviewing the bylaws staff noticed a housekeeping issue that requires updating:

- Water Bylaw
 - Due to short notice/emergency requests for water turn on/off that result in reallocating work schedules within a time constraint, staff are recommending that a short notice request (less than 72 hours) fee be added to Schedule B.
- Garbage Bylaw
 - Schedule A currently displays the rates for single family dwelling, two family dwelling and secondary suites per month, but the rates are billed as an annual

amount on the property tax notice. Staff are recommending that the rates be presented as an annual amount on Schedule A.

A copy of the associated bylaws have been included in the Bylaw section of the agenda for Council's consideration.

COUNCIL PRIORITY:

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Kerri Borne, Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By: Corporate Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer