

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Finance

Date: March 21, 2023

Subject: 2023 Water, Sewer, and Garbage Bylaw Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

The *Community Charter* requires that local government's water, sewer and garbage services be self-funded, meaning the full cost of the programs are funded by user fees, including the costs related to managing the life cycle of capital assets. User fees are typically adjusted annually to offset any changes in the cost to deliver the service.

Over the last few months staff have brought forward reports to council regarding changes to the water, sewer, and garbage bylaws as well as the bylaw rates. The approved changes are listed below:

- Schedule "B" of the Sewer Rates and Regulations Bylaw will include a reduction of excess usage water rate from May – August for commercial businesses who operate a greenhouse.
- Wording will be included in the water, sewer and garbage bylaws providing a full exemption from user rates for places of worship and not-for-profit agencies who are registered owners of a property that accesses utility services.
- Below are the approved rate increases:
 - Water - 7%
 - The increase to water rates covers all the necessary operational costs and an annual transfer to water reserve of \$241,298 for current and future capital projects.



- Sewer - 7%
 - The increase to sewer rates covers all the necessary operational costs and an annual transfer to sewer reserve of \$209,091 for current and future capital projects.

- Garbage - 7%
 - The increase to garbage rates covers all the necessary operational costs and an annual transfer to reserves of \$86,281 for replacement of residential garbage truck and garbage bins, and \$25,218 for replacement of commercial garbage truck.

The impact of the rate increases to residential and commercial customers is as follows:

Residential Customers

7% Annual Increase

Water billing increase	\$26.70
Sewer billing increase	\$17.44
Garbage billing increase (weekly service)	\$12.24
Overall annual increase of \$56.38 or \$4.70/month	

*bi-weekly garbage service would see an increase of \$54.58 or \$4.55/month

Commercial Customers

7% Annual Increase

Water billing increase (minimum charges)	\$23.94
Sewer billing increase (minimum charges)	\$20.70
Garbage billing increase (2yrd bin 1 pickup per week)	\$71.40
Overall annual increase of \$116.04 or \$9.67/month	

*3yrd bin, 1 pickup/week customers would see an increase of \$134.88 or \$22.48 bi-monthly

*4yrd bin, 1 pickup/week customers would see an increase of \$153.78 or \$25.63 bi-monthly

Rates will become effective May 1, 2023. Residential customers will have the new rates shown on their 2023 property tax bill and commercial customers will have the new rates shown on their May-June utility billing.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kerri Borne" written over a horizontal line.

Kerri Borne
Chief Financial Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Smith" written over a horizontal line.

Approved for Submission to Council