

THE MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND

BY-LAW NO. 2024-02

BEING a By-law of the Municipality of Rhineland to amend its By-law No. 2023-01 which provided for the establishment of water rates for the Rhineland Water Utility's and Bulk Loading Stations, the setting of initial sewer rates for the newly created Rhineland Sewer Utility and the revision of existing lagoon septic dumping fees.

WHEREAS the Municipal Act S.M. 1996.c.58 states in part:

232(1) A Council may pass a by-law for municipal purposes respecting the following matters:
1) Public Utilities

232(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a council may in a by-law passed under this Division

d) establish fees or other charges for services, activities or things provided or done by the municipality or for the use of property under the ownership, direction, management, or control of the municipality.

250(2) A municipality may for municipal purposes do the following:

b) construct, operate, repair, improve and maintain works and improvements.

c) acquire, establish, maintain, and operate services, facilities, and utilities.

e) use municipal equipment, materials, and labour to carry out private works on private property.

252(1) A municipality exercising powers in those referred to in clauses 250(2)(b), (c) and (e) may set terms and conditions in respect of users, including

a) setting the rates or amounts of deposits, fees and other charges, and charging and collecting them;

b) providing for a right of entry onto private property to determine compliance with other terms and conditions, to determine the number of deposits, fees or other charges, or to disconnect a service; and

c) discontinuing or disconnecting a service and refusing to provide the service to users who fail to comply with the term and conditions.

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Rhineland owns and operates a water utility that provides service to both the area and many villages of the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Rhineland owns and operates a low-pressure sewer line to provide service to the Village of Old Altona as well as to property owners located along PTH 30 east of the Town of Altona;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Rhineland contributed to the expansion of the Town of Altona's Lagoon in order to secure a facility for the long-term septic dumping requirements of the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Pembina Valley Water Co-op has applied for and received approval from the Public Utilities Board under Order No. 138/22:

a) A rate increase of \$ 1.17 to \$11.08 per 1,000 gallons effective January 1st, 2024.

b) A rate increase of \$.29 to 11.37 per 1,000 gallons effective January 1st, 2025.

c) A rate increase of \$.30 to \$11.68 per 1,000 gallons effective January 1st, 2026.

d) A rate increase of \$.33 to 12.01 per 1,000 gallons effective January 1st, 2027.

AND WHEREAS the Pembina Valley Water Co-op has notified the Municipality of Rhineland that they will be increasing their water rates for 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 as approved by The Public Utilities Board;

AND WHEREAS the Public Utilities Board (PUB) has advised the Municipality of Rhineland that the Municipality only needs to inform its water utility customers and the PUB of the Municipality's intention to "pass through" the rate change;

AND WHEREAS Council feels that it is in the best interest of the Municipality of Rhineland to proceed with a "pass through" water rate increases to cover the additional costs;

NOW THEREFORE be it enacted as a by-law of The Municipality of Rhineland, in Council duly assembled as follows:

1. THAT By-law No. 2023-01 of the Municipality of Rhineland, IS HEREBY AMENDED to provide for the "pass through" of the Pembina Valley Water Co-op's increases to the wholesale water purchase price for 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 for the Rhineland Water Utility and Bulk Loading Station approved in accordance with The Public Utilities Board Order No. 138/22.
2. THAT all accounts for minimum quarterly charges for metered services as set forth in the schedule of quarterly rates shall be billed quarterly together with any excess charges for metered water and sewer services for the preceding quarter. Consumers shall pay for water and sewer services supplied to them by the Municipality of Rhineland at the rates and terms set out in Schedule "A", "B" & "C" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law.
3. THAT this by-law shall come into force and become effective after third and final reading.

DONE AND PASSED by the Council of The Municipality of Rhineland in open Council assembled in Altona in the Province of Manitoba this 21st day of February, 2024 A.D.



Reeve Don Wiebe



Chief Administrative Officer Michael Rempel

Read a first time this 7th day of February, 2024 A.D

Read a second time this 21st day of February, 2024 A.D

Read a third time this 21st day of February, 2024 A.D

**SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 2024-02
THE MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND
RHINELAND WATER & SEWER UTILITY AND BULK LOADING STATION
WATER & SEWER RATES**

SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES:

1. Commodity Rates per 1000 gallons - (Effective January 1st, 2024)

	<u>Water</u>
All Water Consumption – Rhineland Water Utility per 1000 gallons	\$18.45
Low Pressure Sewer Charges – Rhineland Sewer Utility per 1000 gallons	\$14.62

2. Minimum Charges, Quarterly

Notwithstanding the commodity rates set forth in paragraph 3 hereof, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges as set out below, which will include water and/or sewer allowances indicated:

Water & Sewer or Water Only Customers

	Water Included Gallons	Water Included Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge	Water Commodity Charge	Sewer Commodity Charge	Total Quarterly Minimum	Water Only Total Quarterl Minimum
5/8 inch	3,000	13.6	\$17.09	\$55.35	\$43.86	\$116.30	\$72.44
3/4 inch	6,000	27.3	\$17.09	\$110.70	\$87.72	\$215.51	\$127.79
1 inch	12,000	54.6	\$17.09	\$221.40	\$175.44	\$413.93	\$238.49
1 ½ inch	30,000	136.4	\$17.09	\$553.50	\$438.60	\$1,009.19	\$570.59
2 inch	75,000	341.0	\$17.09	\$1,383.75	\$1096.50	\$2,497.34	\$1,400.84

3. Commodity Rates per 1000 gallons - (Effective January 1st, 2025)

All Water Consumption – Rhineland Water Utility per 1000 gallons	\$18.74
Low Pressure Sewer Charges – Rhineland Sewer Utility per 1000 gallons	\$14.62

4. Minimum Charges, Quarterly

Notwithstanding the commodity rates set forth in paragraph 5 hereof, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges as set out below, which will include water and/or sewer allowances indicated:

	Water Included Gallons	Water Included Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge	Water Commodity Charge	Sewer Commodity Charge	Total Quarterly Minimum	Water Only Total Quarterl Minimum
5/8 inch	3,000	13.6	\$17.09	\$56.22	\$43.86	\$117.17	\$73.31
3/4 inch	6,000	27.3	\$17.09	\$112.44	\$87.72	\$217.25	\$129.53
1 inch	12,000	54.6	\$17.09	\$224.88	\$175.44	\$417.41	\$241.97
1 ½ inch	30,000	136.4	\$17.09	\$562.20	\$438.60	\$1,017.89	\$579.29
2 inch	75,000	341.0	\$17.09	\$1,405.50	\$1096.50	\$2,519.09	\$1,422.59

5. Commodity Rates per 1000 gallons (Effective January 1st, 2026)

All Water Consumption – Rhineland Water Utility per 1000 gallons	\$19.04
Low Pressure Sewer Charges – Rhineland Sewer Utility per 1000 gallons	\$14.62

6. Minimum Charges, Quarterly

Notwithstanding the commodity rates set forth in paragraph 7 hereof, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges set out below, which will include water and/or sewer allowances indicated:

	Water Included Gallons	Water Included Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge	Water Commodity Charge	Sewer Commodity Charge	Total Quarterly Minimum	Water Only Total Quarterl Minimum
5/8 inch	3,000	13.6	\$17.09	\$57.12	\$43.86	\$118.07	\$74.21
3/4 inch	6,000	27.3	\$17.09	\$114.24	\$87.72	\$219.05	\$131.33
1 inch	12,000	54.6	\$17.09	\$228.48	\$175.44	\$421.01	\$245.57
1 ½ inch	30,000	136.4	\$17.09	\$571.20	\$438.60	\$1,026.89	\$588.29
2 inch	75,000	341.0	\$17.09	\$1428.00	\$1096.50	\$2,541.59	\$1,445.09

7. Commodity Rates per cubic meter (Effective January 1st, 2027)

All Water Consumption – Rhineland Water Utility per 1000 gallons	\$19.37
Low Pressure Sewer Charges – Rhineland Sewer Utility per 1000 gallons	\$14.62

8. Minimum Charges, Quarterly

Notwithstanding the commodity rates set forth in paragraph 9 hereof, all customers will pay the minimum charges set out below, which will include water and/or sewer allowances as indicated

Water Meter Size	Water Included Gallons	Water Included Cubic Meters	Customer Service Charge	Water Commodity Charge	Sewer Commodity Charge	Total Quarterly Minimum	Water Only Total Quarterly Minimum
5/8 inch	3,000	13.6	\$17.09	\$58.11	\$43.86	\$119.06	\$75.20
3/4 inch	6,000	27.3	\$17.09	\$116.22	\$87.72	\$221.03	\$133.31
1 inch	12,000	54.6	\$17.09	\$232.44	\$175.44	\$424.97	\$249.53
1 ½ inch	30,000	136.4	\$17.09	\$581.10	\$438.60	\$1,036.79	\$598.19
2 inch	75,000	341.0	\$17.09	\$1,452.75	\$1096.50	\$2,566.34	\$1,469.84

9. Bulk Water Sales-Treated

All water sold in bulk at the Rhineland Water Utility Bulk Loading Stations shall be charged at the following rates:

- April 1st to December 31st, 2023 - \$17.28 per 1000 gallons or \$3.72 per cubic meter
- January 1st to December 31st, 2024 - \$18.83 per 1000 gallons or \$4.15 per cubic meter
- January 1st to December 31st, 2025 - \$19.12 per 1000 gallons or \$4.22 per cubic meter
- January 1st to December 31st, 2026 - \$19.42 per 1000 gallons or \$4.28 per cubic meter
- January 1st to December 31st, 2027- \$19.75 per 1000 gallons or \$4.35 per cubic meter

10. Bulk Water Sales-Untreated

All untreated water sold in bulk at the Rhineland Water Utility Bulk Loading Station located in Gnadenthal will be charged at the rate of \$11.16 per 1,000 gallons (\$2.45 per cubic meter).

11. Septic Dumping Fees – Altona Lagoon

All septic dumped at the Altona Lagoon shall be charged at the following rates:

- Effective January 1, 2023 at a rate of \$6.00 per 100 gallons

12. Surcharges for Services beyond the Municipality’s Boundaries

“Service to Customers Outside Municipality, Town, or L.U.D., Limits”

The Council of the Municipality of Rhineland may sign agreements with customers for the provision of water and sewer services to properties located outside the legal boundaries of the Municipality of Rhineland. Such agreements shall provide for payment of the appropriate rates set out in the schedule, as well as a surcharge, set by resolution of Council, which shall be equivalent to the frontage levy, general taxes, and special taxes for utility purposes in effect at the time, or may be in effect from time to time, and which would be levied on the property concerned if it were within these boundaries. In addition, all costs of connecting to the utility’s mains and installing and maintaining service connections will be paid by the customer.”

13. Quarterly Meter Reading

All customers shall complete and submit a quarterly meter reading by the end of the month in which a card is mailed. Failure by any customer to complete and submit the card, submit the water meter reading on the Municipality’s website, or phone in the water meter reading to the Municipal office by the due date, will result in a phone call from Municipal Administration Staff to obtain a current reading. If a current reading cannot be obtained, an estimate for the water consumption for that customer for the specified quarter will be made. The estimate shall be based on the average consumption per quarter in the previous year, or in the case of a new customer the estimate shall be based on the average quarterly residential consumption. All such phone calls and/or estimated readings shall be subject to a \$15.00 administration fee. The fee may be waived in the case of a physical disability and/or extended leave from the community.

14. **Billings & Penalties**

Accounts shall be billed quarterly and shall be due and payable 30 days after date of billing. A penalty of 1.25% per month of the amount of the bill shall be added if not paid by the due date.

15. **Disconnection**

The Public Utilities Board has approved the Conditions Precedent to be followed by the Municipality with respect to the disconnection of service for non-payment including, such matters, as notice and the right to appeal such action to the Public Utilities Board. A copy of the Conditions Precedent is available for inspection at the Municipality's office.

16. **Reconnection**

Any service disconnected due to non-payment of account shall not be reconnected until all arrears, penalties, and a reconnection fee of \$75.00 have been paid.

17. **Service Interruption**

Any service interrupted for due to repairs and maintenance requirements are subject to the following fees:

- Curb Stop Turn Off or Turn On \$25.00 per incident
- Curb Stop Turn Off & Removal of Meter \$40.00 per incident
- Re-installation of Meter & Curb Stop Turn On \$40.00 per incident

18. **Outstanding Bills**

Pursuant to Section 252(2) of The Municipal Act, the amount of all outstanding charges for water service are a lien and charge upon the land serviced and shall be collected in the same way ordinary taxes upon the land are collectible, and with like remedies.

19. **Hydrant Rentals**

The Municipality of Rhineland will pay to the utility from funds of the Local Urban District of Rosenfeld an annual rental of \$150.00 for each hydrant connected to the system.

20. **Water Allowances Due to Line Freezing**

That in any case where, at the request of the Council, a customer allows water to run continuously for any period to prevent the water lines in the water system from freezing, the charge to that customer for the current quarter shall be the average of the billings for the last two previous quarters to the same customer, or to the same premises if the occupant has changed.