

NOVA SCOTIA REGULATORY AND APPEALS BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by **TOWN OF OXFORD**, on behalf of its **WATER UTILITY**, 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, Panel Chair

Marc Dunning, P.Eng., LL.B., Member

SECOND ORDER

The Town of Oxford, on behalf of its water utility (Utility), applied to the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board (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 July 30, 2025. The Utility provided its responses to undertakings, including a revised rate study, on August 6 and 8, 2025.

On September 26, 2025, the Board issued an Order approving the Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services which were attached to this order as Schedules A and B effective October 1, 2025, and April 1, 2026, respectively, and approving its Schedule of Rates and Regulations which were attached to this order as Schedule C, effective October 1, 2025. The Order also required that the Utility refile its Water Rate Study in full reflecting the request for rates approved for all three test years which the Utility did on October 22, 2025.

In this Second Order, the Board approves the Schedule of Rates for Water and Water Services, filed as Schedule C in the revised rate study, effective April 1, 2027, and attached hereto.

The Board directs the Utility to explore the pros and cons of a cost-of-service study, whether it might produce a more appropriate cost-of-service model for its ratepayers, and to report on its findings in the next application.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 15th day of December 2025.

Pamela McGarrigle

Clerk of the Board



SCHEDULE "C"

TOWN OF OXFORD WATER UTILITY
SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER AND WATER SERVICES

(Effective for water supplied on and after 1 April 2027)

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 Water Utility of the Town of Oxford.

1. RATES:

	<u>Quarterly</u>
Unmetered (based on 15,000 imp. gal. per quarter)	149.08

(a) Base Charges

Size of Meter	
5/8"	107.00
3/4"	157.30
1"	257.91
1.5"	509.43
2"	811.25
3"	1,616.11
4"	2,521.58
6"	5,036.78

(b) Consumption Rate (per 1000 Imp. Gallons)

\$2.81 per 1000 Imp. Gallons

(c) Minimum Bill

The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

2. PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION RATE

The Town of Oxford shall pay the Water Utility, on or before September 30, 2027 for fire protection services a total amount of \$216,787.

For subsequent years, the annual public fire protection rate shall be based on the above or:

- a) the sum of 33.7% of Transmission and Distribution, Taxes and Depreciation expenses of the Utility, and 33.7% of the sum of the (Non-Operating Expenditures less the Non-Operating Revenue less Other Operating Revenue 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 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 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 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 \$60.00 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. If reconnection is outside of regular working hours, the charge is \$200.00.

8. NEW ACCOUNT CREATION 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. The New Account Creation Fee is solely for the creation of a new account and does not include the System Connection Fee as noted in Item 9 below.

9. SYSTEM CONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer requests the water be turned on except as noted in Item 10 below, a charge of \$50.00 shall be made for turning on the water unless such request is after regular working hours of the Utility when a fee of \$200.00 shall apply.

10. SYSTEM DISCONNECTION FEE

Whenever a customer requests the water be turned off from any premises, 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 unless such request is after regular working hours of the Utility when a fee of \$200.00 shall apply.

11. SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE:

A special service charge of \$50.00 (\$200.00 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. 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.

12. DISHONoured PAYMENTS

The Utility shall charge a \$25.00 administration fee plus any additional bank charges for cheques or pre-authorized payments that have been dishonoured by the Customer's bank or other financial institution.

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 \$25.00 for each visit if, in the judgment of the Utility, it is required.

