

**Order No. 33/26 - REVISED**

**MUNICIPALITY OF SWAN VALLEY WEST  
BENITO WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY  
RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2026 AND 2027  
RECOVERY OF ACTUAL OPERATING DEFICITS**

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**March 2, 2026  
Revised March 17, 2026**

**BEFORE: Marilyn Kapitany, B.Sc. (Hon), M.Sc., Panel Chair  
Shawn McCutcheon, Member**

## Table of Contents

1.0	Executive Summary.....	3
2.0	Background .....	4
	Water Supply and Distribution .....	5
	Wastewater Collection and Treatment.....	6
	Unaccounted for Water.....	6
3.0	Application .....	8
	Contingency Allowance and Utility Reserves.....	10
	Working Capital Calculation.....	10
	Cost Allocation Methodology .....	11
4.0	Board Findings .....	13
5.0	IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:.....	17
	SCHEDULE A.....	19

## 1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves the revised water and wastewater rates as applied for by the Municipality of Swan Valley West (Municipality), for the Benito Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility), but varies the effective dates to January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027.

The approved rates and effective dates are as follows:

	Current Rates	January 1, 2026	January 1, 2027
Quarterly Service Charge	\$22.68	\$7.69	\$7.85
Water (per 1,000 gallons)	\$6.89	\$10.06	\$10.25
Wastewater (per 1,000 gallons)	\$7.27	\$8.82	\$8.92
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$65.16	\$64.33	\$65.49
Minimum Quarterly Charge – Water Only*	\$43.35	\$37.87	\$38.60
Deficit Rate Rider (per 1,000 gallons)	\$2.54	\$2.54	\$2.54
Minimum Quarterly Charge With Rate Rider*	\$72.78	\$71.95	\$73.11
Minimum Quarterly Charge With Rate Rider – Water Only*	\$50.97	\$45.49	\$46.22
Bulk Water (per 1,000 gallons)	\$24.50	\$13.20	\$13.41
Hydrant Rental (Annual)	\$150.00**	\$10,000***	\$10,000***

\*Based on 3,000 gallons

\*\*Annual charge per hydrant

\*\*\*Total annual charge for all hydrants

The Board also approves a 2021 actual operating deficit of \$52,158, to be recovered by a rate rider of \$2.54 per customer per 1,000 gallons by extending the rate rider approved in Board Order No. 49/23 beginning January 1, 2026 for a period of seven years or until revenue from the rate rider has reached a total of \$246,244, whichever comes first.

Details of other rates may be found in the attached Schedule A to this Order.

Rationale for the Board's decisions may be found under the Board Findings section below.

## 2.0 Background

The Municipality owns and operates the Utility serving 196 customers. Board Order No. 93/22 approved interim *ex parte* rates for the Utility to mitigate ongoing deficits. The Board varied the rates in Board Order No. 49/23 to reduce approved rates to mitigate rate shock and allow the Municipality to perform a new rate study in fall 2023, with the new rates effective October 1, 2022.

Board Order No. 93/22 also approved a 2015 actual operating deficit of \$5,914, a 2016 actual operating deficit of \$27,604, a 2017 actual operating deficit of \$22,150, a 2018 actual operating deficit of \$15,206, a 2019 actual operating deficit of \$53,777, and a 2020 actual operating deficit of \$118,784, totalling \$243,435 to be recovered by a combination of existing working capital surplus and a rate rider of \$5.25 per 1,000 gallons, beginning October 1, 2022, for a period of seven years or until revenue from the rate rider has reached \$194,066, whichever comes first.

The Board varied the deficit recovery methodology in Board Order No. 49/23 to be recovered by a combination of existing working capital surplus funding, a rate rider of \$2.54 per customer per 1,000 gallons beginning April 1, 2023 for a period of six years and six months or until revenue from the rate rider has reached \$87,133, whichever comes first.

By law, Manitoba utilities are not allowed to incur deficits. In the event that a deficit does occur, a utility is required to obtain Board approval for recovery methodology that the utility proposes.

The Public Utilities Board (Board) issued Order No. 151/08 on November 7, 2008 requiring all water and/or wastewater utilities to report an actual year-end deficit to the Board if the utility:

1. had not received prior approval for the deficit from the Board and such deficit either exceeds \$10,000 or represents 5% of the utility's operating budget; or
2. had received prior approval for the deficit from the Board and the actual deficit:
  - a. exceeds the previously approved amount by either \$10,000 or 5% of the utility's operating budget; or
  - b. is caused as a result that differs from that upon which said approval was granted.

### **Water Supply and Distribution**

The Municipality provided the following description of its water system:

"The water and wastewater system in Benito is in relatively good shape for its age. It serves a stable population with some suggestion of future growth. The utility generally has around 200 customers from year to year. There has never been a complete replacement of the system since it was initially installed.

There have been few watermain breaks in the past several years. There have been only minor concerns with the incoming raw water pipeline related to air check valves. There is a known issue with one manhole that is schedule for repair.

There are known issues with several hydrants. While functional they are in need of repair and refurbishment. In some cases this will involve replacement while in other cases it appears repairs are all that will be needed.

It is expected that at some point the water pipes will further deteriorate. A portion of the pipes are located under a designated provincial route. At this time there is no intention from [the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure] (MIT) to repave the route. Should those plans develop the utility would be best to replace the affected route prior to paving. This is likely not an issue for 10+ years.

Overall both the water and waste water systems are adequate and no substantial expense is foreseen in the near future. Treatment capacity is adequate and there is room for growth without construction of additional capacity.”

### **Wastewater Collection and Treatment**

The Municipality provided the following description of its wastewater system:

“When the new council was elected we were told of a substantial leak at the lagoon which was said to be a failure of the lagoon or liner. Investigation revealed the leak was actually caused by debris in a valve. That leak has been resolved with minimal cost.

The lagoon may be in need of dredging in the coming years but it does not currently appear on our capital plan. Overall both the water and waste water systems are adequate and no substantial expense is foreseen in the near future.”

### **Unaccounted for Water**

The acceptable percentage of unaccounted for water is 10% based on industry standards. If the percentage is above this amount, the applicant is to explain why and provide a plan to remedy.

The Municipality provided the following commentary on unaccounted for water for the Utility:

“At current the utility is showing a 17% loss of water. Investigations are underway but it appears the loss is likely related to miscalculations. In late 2023 it was found that operators may not be properly recording treated and transported water amounts daily. There are additional concerns with the amount of water used for flushing being properly recorded. Finally, no effort had been made to record the actual use for fire fighting. This will be resolved in 2024.

There may also be some small leaks. Work is ongoing to monitor per second flow in off peak hours to determine if appears water is leaking. If there is a leak, it is relatively small but the current thinking is that the discrepancy is paper based.”

On October 7, 2025, the Municipality provided an update on the plans to address unaccounted for water and advised they are continually seeking sources of water loss and monitoring the water and wastewater system and are repairing system leaks and breaks as soon as possible once they are detected.

### 3.0 Application

On January 28, 2025, the Municipality applied to the Board for revised water and wastewater rates and to recover a 2021 actual operating deficit in the amount of \$52,158, to be recovered by extending the existing, approved rate rider of \$2.54 per 1,000 gallons to December 31, 2029. The Municipality did not provide any calculations or the required, rate rider extension duration. The Municipality submitted Council Resolution No. 2024-199 and By-Law No. 0108-24, having had first reading on March 26, 2024 supporting the Municipality's Rate Application and Council Resolution No. 2024-183 supporting the Municipality's Deficit Application.

A Public Notice of Application was issued on February 21, 2025, allowing for any questions or comments with respect to the proposed rate increase to the Board and/or the Municipality on or Before April 6, 2025. There were no responses to the Notice.

When reviewing an application the Board can either: hold a public hearing at which the applicant can present its case and customers can present their concerns; or where it is deemed to be in the best interests of a utility and its customers, the Board can review the application using a paper review process without holding a public hearing. The paper review process considers all written materials submitted by the Utility and the public, as well as any information requests and responses between the Board and the Utility. This process may reduce regulatory costs to the Utility.

A public hearing process allows the Utility and the public the opportunity to review the application and address any concerns with the Board present.

Whenever reasonable, the Board will review the application using a paper review process, which saves the cost of a public hearing process. The Board has chosen a paper review process for the Municipality's application.

The rates were calculated based on the following projections and includes an annual inflation rate of 2.0% in the calculations:

<b>Schedule of Utility Rate Requirements</b>			
<b>Municipality of Swan Valley West – Benito Water and Wastewater Utility</b>			
<b>2025 to 2027 Budget Forecasts (\$)</b>			
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>
	<b>Forecast</b>		
<b>General Expenses</b>			
Administration	4,580	4,672	4,765
Billing and Collection	1,680	1,714	1,748
Working Capital Surcharge	1,144	1,144	1,144
Total General Expenses	7,404	7,530	7,657
<b>Revenue</b>			
Penalties	1,000	1,000	1,000
Surcharges	500	500	500
Total General Revenues	1,500	1,500	1,500
<b>Net Costs General</b>	<b>5,904</b>	<b>6,030</b>	<b>6,157</b>
<b>Water Expenses</b>			
Staffing	10,128	10,331	10,537
Purification and Treatment	20,000	20,400	20,808
Service of Supply	10,000	10,200	10,404
Transmission and Distribution	5,000	5,100	5,202
Other Water Supply Costs	3,818	3,894	3,972
Amortization	14,397	13,889	13,889
Contingency	4,513	4,603	4,695
Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Water Expenses	77,856	78,417	79,507
<b>Revenue</b>			
Hydrant Rentals	10,000	10,000	10,000
Bulk Water Fees	10,500	10,500	10,500
Total Water Revenue	20,500	20,500	20,500
<b>Net Water Costs</b>	<b>57,356</b>	<b>57,917</b>	<b>59,007</b>
<b>Wastewater Expenses</b>			
Staffing	13,000	13,260	13,525
Collection System	6,500	6,630	6,763
Lift Station	4,500	4,590	4,682
Treatment and Disposal	8,500	8,670	8,843
Other Collection/Disposal	3,818	3,894	3,972

	Amortization	9,774	9,774	9,774
	Interest on Long-Term Debt	2,012	-	-
	Contingency	3,632	3,704	3,779
	Total Wastewater Expenses	51,736	50,552	51,338
<b>Revenue</b>				
	Taxation	13,268	-	-
	Total Wastewater Revenue	13,268	-	-
	<b>Net Wastewater Costs</b>	<b>38,468</b>	<b>50,552</b>	<b>51,338</b>
	<b>Net Operating Costs</b>	<b>101,728</b>	<b>114,499</b>	<b>116,502</b>

### Contingency Allowance and Utility Reserves

As per the Board's Water and Wastewater Rate Application Guidelines, a yearly allowance equal to 10% of the variable operating costs is recommended for a contingency allowance.

The Municipality has included an annual contingency allowance of \$4,513 for 2025, \$4,603 for 2026, and \$4,695 for 2027 for water and \$3,632 for 2025, \$3,704 for 2026, and \$3,779 for 2027 for wastewater. The Municipality has not included any transfer to the Utility Reserve in the proposed rates.

### Working Capital Calculation

Board Order No. 93/09 established that utilities should maintain a minimum working capital surplus, in an amount equal to 20% of annual expenses. The working capital surplus/deficit is defined as the Utility fund balance, excluding any capital related items plus Utility reserves.

As per the 2022 Audited Financial Statements for the Utility, the most recent information available, the working capital deficit as at December 31, 2022 is as follows:

	2022
Utility Fund Surplus/Deficit	\$478,964
Deduct: Tangible Capital Assets	(706,750)
Add: Long-Term Debt	37,261
Add: Utility Reserves	1,624
<b>Equals Working Capital Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(188,901)</b>
Operating Expenses	125,746
<b>20% of Operating Expenses (Target)</b>	<b>\$25,149</b>

The Utility's working capital does not meet the Board's minimum requirement of 20% of operating expenses. The Board also notes, the Municipality's 2023 and 2024 Audited Financial Statements have not been submitted to the Board and are overdue.

### **Cost Allocation Methodology**

The Board requires all municipal governments to review the costs shared between its general operations and the Utility, and to allocate appropriate and reasonable costs to the Utility, based on a policy known as a Cost Allocation Methodology. This allocation must be submitted to the Board for approval and cannot be changed without receiving approval from the Board. The Board's requirements regarding cost allocation methodologies can be found in Board Order No. 93/09.

The Municipality's allocation plan for shared costs is as follows:

<b>Municipality of Swan Valley West Benito Water and Wastewater Utility Allocation Plan for Non-Direct Shared Services</b>			
Category	Sub-category	Notes	Forecasted Annual Amount
1.0 Administrative Staff		Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Time – 2 Hours per Month	\$1,200
		Assistant Time – 5 Hours per Month	\$1,500
	1.1 Billing Services	Approximately 200 Customers, 4 Bills per Year Postage	\$880
		Supplies Note – Meter Reading in Daily Operations	\$800
	1.2 Accounting	2% of Audit Costs (Estimated)	\$1,000
	1.3 Common Office Space	2% of Office Costs, Taxes	\$160
		Utilities	\$400
	1.4 Office Overhead	2% of Common Costs Photocopier	\$120
		Computer	\$200
		<b>Total Annual Administration Estimate</b>	<b><u>\$6,260</u></b>
2.0 Operating, Construction and Maintenance Costs			
	2.1 Vehicle	Annual KM Estimates @ \$0.68/KM	\$3,818
	2.2 Labour	2 hours Daily Operations @ Union Rate	\$20,440
		Annual Flushing – 2 Days Full Time	\$448
		Contingency Operations 10 Full Days	\$2,240
	2.3 Public Works Buildings	No Charges	
	2.4 Road Repairs	Actual Costs	
		<b>Total Annual Operating Costs</b>	<b><u>\$26,946</u></b>

## 4.0 Board Findings

### Audited Financial Statements

The Board notes the Municipality's 2023 and 2024 Audited Financial Statements are overdue. The Utility incurred deficits in 2009 up to and including 2011 totalling \$97,375 and in 2015 up to and including 2021 totalling \$243,435 or a total nine-year deficit of \$340,810 due to insufficient rates. The Board also notes, revised rates for the Utility did not come into effect until October 1, 2022 therefore the financial effect of the increased rate revenue and if rate requirements are being properly met, will not be known until 2023 at the soonest.

The Utility's most recent, completed Audited Financial Statements are from 2022 and without up-to-date Utility financial information, it is difficult to properly assess the Utility's Working Capital, assess the financial health of the Utility, and forecast rate requirements for the Utility.

The Board also notes, the Municipality's Audited Financial Statements are to be reported to the Board no later than June 30 of the following year and strongly recommends the Municipality work with its auditor(s) on an urgent basis to complete its outstanding Audited Financial Statements as soon as possible to ensure the Municipality's forecasts align accurately with the Utility's most up-to-date Utility costs required to sustain the Utility operations.

### Deficits

The Municipality has requested recovery of a 2021 actual operating deficit in the amount of \$52,158 to be recovered by extending the existing, approved rate rider of \$2.54 per 1,000 gallons to December 31, 2029.

The Board has reviewed the Municipality's 2021 deficit application and is concerned by the number of consecutive deficits incurred and their magnitude. The Board reminds the Municipality that by law, Manitoba utilities are not allowed to incur deficits. In the event that a deficit does occur, the Utility is required by *The Municipal Act* to obtain Board approval for both the deficit and recovery methodology as soon as a deficit is known.

The Board also notes, as per the Public Utilities Board Guidelines: "Where a public utility incurs, or expects to incur, a deficit in its operations, it is required to apply to the Board for approval of that deficit. The utility must explain the cause of the deficit in detail and advise how it seeks to recover the deficit."

What this means is, in addition to filling out the Board's Deficit Application Form and filing a completed Public Utilities Board Schedule 9, the Utility must provide the complete details of a plan to fully recover the deficit. This must include the deficit amount and how it was calculated, a specific recovery methodology which must include any and all deficit recovery calculations. If a Utility deems its most appropriate deficit recovery methodology to be using a rate rider, as the Utility has indicated in its Deficit Application, it must also include a detailed calculation of the deficit rate rider recovery amount and a detailed calculation of the duration required to fully recover the incurred deficit. The Board requires this information to properly review a Deficit Application. If a Utility lacks the expertise to provide this information to the Board, it is required to retain assistance to do so.

The Board notes, Board Order No. 49/23 approved a \$2.54 per customer per 1,000 gallons rate rider, beginning April 1, 2023 for a period of six years and six months or until revenue from the rate rider has reached \$87,133, whichever comes first.

The Board approves the Municipality's 2021 actual operating deficit in the amount of \$52,158, when calculated for regulatory purposes, to be recovered by extending the existing, approved rate rider of \$2.54 per 1,000 gallons to December 31, 2029 or until the total revenue from the rate rider has reached \$139,291, whichever comes first.

The Board notes, however, it has reviewed the Municipality's 2022 Audited Financial Statements and they report an actual operating deficit of \$13,606. The Board reminds the Municipality, as per the Public Utilities Board Guidelines, *The Municipal Act* requires that the Board approve deficits. The deficit is determined in the audited financial statements, however the Board has established requirements that vary from the audited statements. The Board requires utilities to file for deficits totalling the lesser of \$10,000 or 5% of the utility's operating budget, when calculated for regulatory purposes.

"When calculated for regulatory purposes" refers to the operating results of a utility, adjusted to exclude revenue from capital grants or contributed assets, and to include one year's amortization of the same capital asset. Please refer to the Public Utilities Board Guidelines for the calculation.

The Board directs the Municipality to file a 2022 Deficit Application with the Board by June 1, 2026, including a detailed calculation of the deficit rate rider recovery amount and a detailed calculation of the duration required to fully recover the incurred deficit.

### **Utility Rates**

The Board notes, the Municipality did not provide a completed Schedule 9 with either its rate study or its Deficit Application. The Board also notes, a Schedule 9 completed by the Municipality is not simply a copy and past from a municipal audit. A completed Schedule 9 provides evidence to the Board the Municipality has reviewed the financial position of the Utility, reviewed the accuracy of the reported financial information of the utility, reviewed the financial health of the Utility and reviewed the financial health of the utility in conjunction with the most current approved utility rates, and presented this information to its Municipal Council for their review and understanding, which is then further evidenced to the Board Municipal Council has reviewed and approved this information in the form of a Municipal By-Law and/or a Council Resolution.

As noted above, the Municipality is two years behind and has not completed its 2023 and 2024 Audited Financial Statements, which were due June 30, 2024 (2023 Audit) and June 30, 2025 (2024 Audit). Without up-to-date financial information, the Board can not properly review the Utility's financial health nor the revised Utility rates requested by the Municipality.

The Board also notes, as per the above, the Utility has incurred nine years of deficits totaling \$340,810 due to insufficient rates and the Utility's 2022 Audit indicates the utility has incurred another deficit. Further, as per Board Order No. 49/23, the most recent rates for the Utility came into effect on April 1, 2023. The Board requires review of the 2023 and 2024 Audits to ensure rates are adequate to begin to restore the financial health of the Utility.

The Board will approve the water and wastewater rates as applied for by the Municipality and vary the effective dates to coincide with the Utility billing cycle, effective January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027. The Board makes this decision to mitigate the ongoing operating deficits the Utility is experiencing and directs the Utility to file a Rate Adequacy Report with the Board as soon as the 2023 Audit has been finalized.

The Board also directs the Municipality to review its water rates for the Utility for adequacy and file a report with the Public Utilities Board, as well as an application for revised rates if required, by no later than April 1, 2027.

## 5.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Municipality of Swan Valley West's application for revised water and wastewater rates for the Benito Water and Wastewater Utility BE AND ARE HEREBY VARIED in accordance with the attached Schedule A effective January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027.
2. The actual operating deficit, when calculated for regulatory purposes, of \$52,158 for 2021 is HEREBY APPROVED to be recovered by continuing the existing, approved rate rider of \$2.54 per customer per 1,000 until December 31, 2029 or until the total revenue from the rate rider has reached \$139,291, whichever comes first.
3. The Municipality of Swan Valley West is to provide notice of the decisions found in this Order to its customers as soon as possible, with a copy to the Public Utilities Board.
4. The Municipality of Swan Valley West amend its water and wastewater By-Law to reflect the decisions in this Board Order and file a copy with the Public Utilities Board, as soon as it has received third and final reading.
5. The Municipality of Swan Valley West review its water rates for the Benito Water and Wastewater Utility for adequacy and file a report with the Public Utilities Board, as well as an application for revised rates if required, by no later than April 1, 2027.
6. The Municipality of Swan Valley West submit its 2023 and 2024 Audited Financial Statements as soon as possible.
7. The Municipality of Swan Valley West file a 2022 Deficit Application with the Board by June 1, 2026, including a detailed calculation of the deficit rate rider recovery amount and a detailed calculation of the duration required to fully recover the incurred deficit.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$650.00

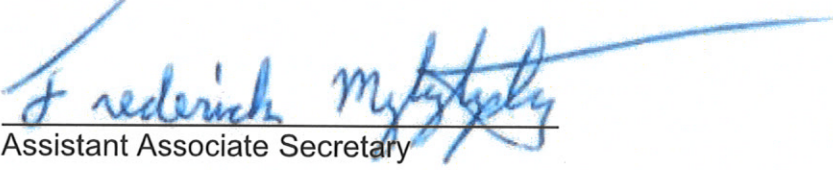
Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 58 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"Marilyn Kapitany, B. SC. (Hon), M. Sc."  
Panel Chair

"Frederick Mykytyshyn"  
Assistant Associate Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 33/26 issued  
by The Public Utilities Board

  
Frederick Mykytyshyn  
Assistant Associate Secretary

**SCHEDULE A**

**MUNICIPALITY OF SWAN VALLEY WEST  
BENITO WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY  
WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES BY-LAW NO. 0108-24  
SCHEDULE OF QUARTERLY RATES**

**1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charge January 1, 2026**

Quarterly Service Charge				\$7.69
Deficit Rate Rider per 1,000 gallons (see Clause 4)				\$2.54
Quarterly Rates	Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater	
Per 1,000 gallons	\$10.06	\$8.82	\$18.88	

**2. Minimum Charges per Quarter**

Notwithstanding the rates set forth in paragraph 1, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges per quarter set out below, which includes the water allowance as listed.

**a. Water & Wastewater Customers**

Meter Size	Group Ratio	Water Capacity Included Gallons	Customer Service Charge	Water Commodity Charge	Wastewater Commodity Charge	Water & Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum	Rate Rider	Water & Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum with Rate Rider
5/8 inch	1	3,000	\$7.69	\$30.18	\$26.46	\$64.33	\$7.62	\$71.59
3/4 inch	2	6,000	\$7.69	\$60.36	\$52.92	\$120.97	\$15.24	\$136.21
1 inch	4	12,000	\$7.69	\$120.72	\$105.84	\$234.25	\$30.48	\$264.73
1 ½ inch	10	30,000	\$7.69	\$301.80	\$264.60	\$574.09	\$76.20	\$650.29
2 inch	25	75,000	\$7.69	\$754.50	\$661.50	\$1,423.69	\$190.50	\$1,614.19
3 inch	45	135,000	\$7.69	\$1,358.10	\$1,190.70	\$2,556.49	\$342.90	\$2,899.39
4 inch	90	270,000	\$7.69	\$2,716.20	\$2,381.40	\$5,105.29	\$685.80	\$5,791.09
6 inch	170	510,000	\$7.69	\$5,130.60	\$4,498.20	\$9,636.49	\$1,295.40	\$10,931.89

**b. Water Only for Residential Customers**

The minimum charge will be the same for each meter size as shown above but the Wastewater Commodity Charge will be excluded.

**3. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Benito Utility will be charged at the rate of \$13.20 per 1,000 gallons.

**1. Schedule of Commodity Rates & Quarterly Service Charge January 1, 2027**

Quarterly Service Charge				\$7.85
Deficit Rate Rider per 1,000 gallons (see Clause 4)				\$2.54
Quarterly Rates	Water	Wastewater	Water & Wastewater	
Per 1,000 gallons	\$10.25	\$8.96	\$19.21	

**2. Minimum Charges per Quarter**

Notwithstanding the rates set forth in paragraph 1, all customers will pay the applicable minimum charges per quarter set out below, which includes the water allowance as listed.

**a. Water & Wastewater Customers**

Meter Size	Group Ratio	Water Included Gallons	Customer Service Charge	Water Commodity Charge	Wastewater Commodity Charge	Water & Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum	Rate Rider	Water & Wastewater Total Quarterly Minimum with Rate Rider
5/8 inch	1	3,000	\$7.85	\$30.75	\$26.88	\$65.48	\$7.62	\$73.10
3/4 inch	2	6,000	\$7.85	\$61.50	\$53.76	\$123.11	\$15.24	\$138.35
1 inch	4	12,000	\$7.85	\$123.00	\$107.52	\$238.37	\$30.48	\$268.85
1 ½ inch	10	30,000	\$7.85	\$307.50	\$268.80	\$584.15	\$76.20	\$660.35
2 inch	25	75,000	\$7.85	\$768.75	\$672.00	\$1,448.60	\$190.50	\$1,639.10
3 inch	45	135,000	\$7.85	\$1,383.75	\$1,209.60	\$2,601.20	\$342.90	\$2,944.10
4 inch	90	270,000	\$7.85	\$2,767.50	\$2,419.20	\$5,194.55	\$685.80	\$5,880.35
6 inch	170	510,000	\$7.85	\$5,227.50	\$4,569.60	\$9,804.95	\$1,295.40	\$11,100.35

**b. Water Only for Residential Customers**

The minimum charge will be the same for each meter size as shown above but the Wastewater Commodity Charge will be excluded.

**3. Bulk Water Sales**

All water sold in bulk by the Benito Utility will be charged at the rate of \$13.41 per 1,000 gallons.

**The following clauses take effect January 1, 2026:**

**4. Deficit Rate Rider**

Deficit Rate Rider of \$2.54 per 1,000 gallons of water consumed per customer commencing April 1, 2023 until \$139,291 is recovered.

**5. Service To Customers Outside Utility's Limits**

The Council of the Municipality of Swan Valley West may sign Agreements with customers for the provision of water and wastewater services to properties located outside the boundaries of Benito. 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 the 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 Benito boundaries. In addition, all costs of connecting to the Utility's mains, and installing and maintaining service connections, will be paid by the customer.

**6. Billings And Penalties**

Accounts shall be billed quarterly based on water used. A late payment charge of 1.25% per month, compounded monthly, shall be charged on the dollar amount owing after the billing due date. The due date shall be at least 20 days after the mailing of the bills.

**7. Disconnection**

The Public Utilities Board has approved the Conditions Precedent to be followed by the Municipality with respect to 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.

**8. Reconnection**

Any service disconnected, whether due to non-payment of account or for any other reason(s) mutually agreed to by the customer and the Municipality (i.e. repairs

necessitated by negligence of the customer, changes in tenant, vacancy for an extended period of time, etc.) shall not be reconnected until a reconnection fee of \$50.00 and all arrears and penalties, if any, have been paid.

#### **9. Outstanding Bills**

Pursuant to Section 252(2) of *The Municipal Act*, the amount of all outstanding charges for water and wastewater services are a lien and charge upon the land serviced, and shall be collected in the same manner in which ordinary taxes upon the land are collectible, and with like remedies. Where charges and penalties pursuant to this by-law are not paid within sixty (60) days from the date when they were incurred, said charges and penalties shall be added to the taxes on the property and collected in the same manner as other taxes.

#### **10. Hydrant Charges**

The Municipality of Swan Valley West will pay to the utility an annual rental of \$10,000 for hydrants connected to the system which includes the cost of water for firefighting.

#### **11. Wastewater Surcharges**

- a) There may be levied annually, in addition to the rates set forth above, a special surcharge on wastewater having a Biochemical Oxygen Demand in excess of 300 parts per million, to be set by Resolution of Council.
- b) A special surcharge for substances requiring special treatment shall be charged based on the actual costs of treatment required for the particular wastewater or industrial waste.

#### **12. Meter Tampering**

Where there is evidence of meter tampering a minimum charge of \$500.00 will be applied to the customer's account in addition to an amount calculated to adjust for the tampering based on historical usage.

#### **13. Change of Water or Water & Wastewater**

That a charge for change of water or water and wastewater to recover the cost of completing the change of user or service, for a service that has changed users or service shall be:

- a. during normal working hours - \$35.00
- b. outside of normal working hours - \$80.00

#### **14. Meter Testing**

That in any case where a utility customer requests that a meter be tested for accuracy, the customer will provide the Municipality with a deposit of \$200.00. The Municipality will then remove the subject meter and send it to an independent lab for testing. If the meter is found to be faulty, all costs associated with the testing process will be borne by the Municipality and the deposit will be refunded to the customer. If the meter is found to be in proper working order, all costs associated with the testing process will be borne by the customer and the customer will be billed or refunded any balance owing.

#### **15. Cross Connections**

No customer or person shall connect, cause to be connected or allow to remain connected any piping, fixture, fitting, container or appliance in a manner which under any circumstances may allow water, wastewater or any harmful liquid or substance to enter the Municipality's water system.

If a condition is found to exist which, in the opinion of the Municipality, is contrary to the aforesaid, the Municipality may either:

Shut off the service or services; or

Give notice to the customer to correct the fault at his or her own expense within a specified time period.

#### **16. Conditions of Disrepair**

In the event that there are conditions of disrepair in the wastewater and water works on a property that detrimentally affects the system as a whole and, upon the failure of the owner of the property to correct the condition within a reasonable time, the Municipality, or its agents, may enter the property, effect repairs and charge the cost thereof against the subject property as ordinary taxes.

#### **17. Authorization For Officer To Enter Upon Premises**

The Public Works Manager, or other employee authorized by the Municipality in the absence of the Public Works Manager, shall be authorized to enter upon any premise for the purpose of:

Affixing to any pipe, wire or apparatus connected with any such utility, a meter or any other measuring or testing device; or taking readings from, repairing, inspecting or removing any meter or apparatus belonging to the Municipality.