



## **Bylaw 2018/17V (Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Bylaw) Fact Sheet**

**Bylaw 2018/17V received third and final reading on Sept. 4.** This new bylaw combines all utilities (solid waste, water and wastewater), rates and penalties into one bylaw. It will also see all utility accounts move into the property-owner's name within five years.

Base rates for residential and commercial water, wastewater and solid waste will increase slightly. The largest increases will be to residential and commercial water and wastewater consumption rates per cubic metre. This means if you use more, you pay more. Council has chosen this user-pay model coupled with a goal of achieving full cost-recovery on utilities as part of its long-term strategic plan to maintain the community's assets.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House does not make a profit on utilities. The Town only charges what it costs to deliver utilities to residents and businesses.

A new fee structure will be phased in over the next year, with rate increases to take effect in January and July of 2019, as follows:

### **METERED PREMISIS WATER**

- No change between now and Dec. 31, 2018.
- On Jan. 1, 2019, the monthly base rate will increase to \$28.46 (from \$27.175 currently); consumption rate per cubic metre will increase to \$1.15 (from \$0.669 currently).
- On July 1, 2019, the monthly base rate will increase to \$29.75 and the consumption rate per cubic metre will increase to \$1.64.

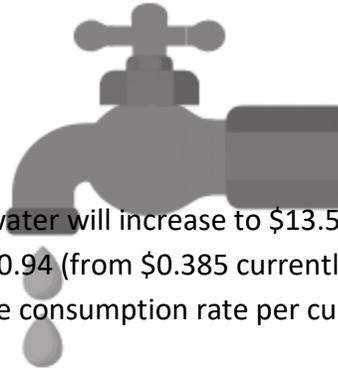
Reconnection and service call fees will increase immediately, as follows:

- \$50 during regular business hours, per occurrence (from \$29).
- \$100 during non-business hours, per occurrence (from \$81).

Note: Further charges will apply after one hour and for additional staff.

### **BULK WATER**

Bulk water rates will increase to \$5.25 per cubic metre (from \$4.90) in October. This change will be reflected in the November billing cycle. The minimum monthly billing fee of \$15 is not changing.



### **METERED PREMISES SEWER**

-No change between now and Dec. 31, 2018.

-On Jan. 19, 2019, the monthly base rate for wastewater will increase to \$13.50 (from \$12.825 currently); the consumption rate per cubic metre will increase to \$0.94 (from \$0.385 currently). On July 1, 2019, the monthly base rate for wastewater will increase to \$14.15; the consumption rate per cubic metre will increase to \$1.50.

### **BULK SEWER**

Bulk sewer rates will decrease to \$5.25 per cubic metre (from \$8.10) in October. This change will be reflected in the November billing cycle with a minimum monthly disposal charge of \$15.

### **SOLID WASTE**

-No change between now and Dec. 31, 2018.

-On Jan. 1, 2019, the monthly rate per residential disposal cart will increase to \$26.40 (from \$25.27 currently); the monthly base rate for commercial properties will increase to \$16.89 (from \$16.80).

-On July 1, 2019, the monthly rate per residential disposal cart will increase to \$27.52; the monthly base rate for commercial properties will increase to \$16.98.

The current commercial tonnage rate of \$224.61 per tonne is not changing.

### *How are landlords and tenants affected by the new bylaw?*

**Bylaw 2018/17V specifies that all utility accounts must be associated with the property owner, not the resident or occupant.**

**The Town now requires all utility accounts currently in a tenant's name to be transferred to the property-owner's name at the next change in tenancy, or within five years, whichever comes first. This will give property owners time to adjust any residential tenancy agreements or commercial lease agreements.**

**The town will no longer take deposits on utility accounts from tenants.**

### *How can I reduce my utility bill?*

**If you use more, you will pay more. Cut back at the tap to reduce your bill each month. Check [www.rockymtnhouse.com](http://www.rockymtnhouse.com) this fall for more tips and tricks to reducing your water consumption.**

***Can I sign up for utility e-billing or pre-authorized withdrawal?* Yes. Download and complete enrolment forms from [www.rockymtnhouse.com](http://www.rockymtnhouse.com) and return them to the Town Office, or to [utilities@rockymtnhouse.com](mailto:utilities@rockymtnhouse.com).**

***Is the Town of Rocky Mountain House changing to a monthly billing cycle?* Yes. Account holders will now receive monthly utility invoices. Fall 2018 invoice dates are Sept. 14, Oct. 15, Nov. 15 and Dec. 14.**