

TOWN OF DIDSBURY
Utility Charges Bylaw
Bylaw No. 2024-13

A BYLAW IN THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY FOR REGULATING AND PROVIDING FOR THE TERMS, CONDITIONS, RATES AND FEES FOR THE SUPPLY AND USE OF WATER, WASTEWATER and SOLID WASTE SERVICES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 3(b) of the *Municipal Government Act*, being the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended, the purposes of a municipality are to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 7(g) of the *Municipal Government Act* a Council of a municipality may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting public utilities; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed just and proper to levy a water service rate on all Persons occupying property connected with the water system of the Town to assist with the costs of constructing and maintaining the system including the cost of treatment and distribution of water; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Didsbury is a member of Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission, a municipally owned corporation which operates the Anthony Henday Regional water system and delivers water to the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed just and proper to levy a wastewater service rate on all Persons occupying property connected with the wastewater system of the Town to assist with the costs of constructing and maintaining the system including the cost of treatment and distribution of wastewater; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to protect both the systems and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Didsbury is a member of Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission, a municipally owned corporation, which operates a regional landfill and receives solid waste from the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, the municipal Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Short Title

This Bylaw shall be known as the “Utilities Charges Bylaw”

2. Definitions

Customer means an individual, partnership, or corporation who is an Owner of the Lands and who submits an application for utility service for those Lands.

Dwelling Unit means a complete building or self-contained portion of a building for the use of one or more individuals living as a single housekeeping unit, containing sleeping, cooking and separate toilet facilities intended as a permanent residence.

Eligible Residence means a residential building, which contains four or less dwelling units.

Fixed means a flat monthly charge, which does not fluctuate month to month.

Variable mean charges that are based on water consumption for the billing period.

3. Paramount Rules

3.1 If the provisions in any other bylaw conflict with the rules in this Bylaw, this Bylaw will prevail.

4. General Provisions

4.1 All utility service charges and fees referred to in this bylaw are set out in Schedule “A” and shall form part of this bylaw.

4.2 Utility departments in the Town of Didsbury are self-supported, therefore are not subsidized by property taxes.

4.3 For rate accuracy and justification, each utility service (water, wastewater and solid waste), is its own product line and is budgeted for and accounted for separately.

- 4.4 All customers receiving utility services shall pay the utility charges and fees.
- 4.5 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Fees are fixed and will cover debt coverage and future capital investment.
- 4.6 Water Consumption Charges are variable and will cover the cost of water from the Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission.
- 4.7 Water and Wastewater Distribution Charges are variable and will cover the cost of operations and maintenance associated with the system.
- 4.8 Solid Waste Service Fees are fixed and will cover all costs associated with the solid waste utility.
- 4.9 Where service to a customer is to be discontinued, a final billing shall be calculated on a pro-rated basis for the number of days the property was owned by the customer for all fixed charges, and based on the consumption determined by the final meter read for all variable charges.
- 4.10 Charges will be added to the utility account for the purposes of administering the printing and mailing of each utility bill sent to each customer or approved recipient.

5. Water and Wastewater Utility Charges:

- 5.1 A water and wastewater Infrastructure Fee will be determined annually based on the customer's connected water meter size.
- 5.2 In the case of non-use of service(s), each customer shall continue to pay an infrastructure fee.
- 5.3 Consumption and distribution rates will be determined annually in accordance with the annual collective water consumption.
- 5.4 Where the calculation of a utility charge is based on the consumption of water, the quantity used shall be determined from the current and previous water meter readings as recorded by the Town, or if an actual water meter reading is not available, by an estimated consumption based on the previous average consumption of the service.
- 5.5 Where a serviced property is located outside of the Town of Didsbury municipal boundary, a security deposit must be paid to the Town of Didsbury prior to services being provided due to the inability to transfer unpaid accounts to the tax roll.
- 5.6 Where a serviced property is located outside of the Town of Didsbury municipal boundary, a surcharge of 35% on all charges will be applied.
- 5.7 If any part of a utility bill remains unpaid after the due date specified on the utility bill, a penalty shall be added and will compound on the charges of each monthly bill.
- 5.8 Where a utility service account remains delinquent in excess of sixty (60) days, the outstanding balance and penalties may be added to the municipal tax roll in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* s. 553(1).
- 5.9 If payment is not received (30) days after the due date specified on the utility bill, the water service may be turned off and not turned on until such time as the utility account including arrears and a reconnection fee is paid in full.
- 5.10 If payment is declined under the pre-authorized payment plan, the pre-authorized party may be disqualified from the pre-authorized payment plan.
- 5.11 No reduction in charges shall be made for any interruption in water or wastewater services during a billing period.
- 5.12 The Town shall levy utility charges for all customers on a monthly basis.
- 5.13 Any customer to whom utility services have been shut off, shall, upon having paid any utility fees owing, and upon requesting the Town to restore utility services, pay to the Town a non-refundable shutoff fee and a separate reconnection fee.
- 5.14 Any debit or credit adjustments to a customer's account for utility services that may be required will be applied up to a maximum of one year.

5.15 The charge for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Fees will apply even where there is no water and/or wastewater being consumed except in the case in which the water meter has not been installed.

6. Utility Services to Tenants

6.1 Utility bills will be issued to the owners of the property. The owner may request a duplicate copy be sent to the tenants. Information or account changes regarding the utility account shall be communicated solely with the owner of the property.

6.2 The property owner(s) may authorize any tenant(s) to be provided with the account information.

7. Solid Waste Service Fees:

7.1 The property owner of a premises receiving Solid Waste Services from the Town is charged a fee.

7.2 A Solid Waste Service Fee for Residential Garbage (black bin), Residential Recycling (blue bin) and Residential Compost (green bin) collection shall be determined annually.

7.3 The service fee shall be charged to each eligible residence receiving the solid waste utility service.

7.4 Additional fees for each added black bin, blue bin and green bin will be determined annually. Each additional collection container shall be charged a fee.

7.4.1 Thirty (30) days' notice is required when additional collection containers are added or removed.

7.5 The charge for Solid Waste Services will apply even where there is no Solid Waste set out for collection.

7.6 An administrative fee for any change of service will be charged.

8. Transitional

8.1 Should any provision of this bylaw be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void, invalid, or unenforceable, all other provisions of this bylaw shall remain valid and enforceable.

8.2 Utility Charges Bylaw 2023-21 is hereby repealed.

8.3 This bylaw shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Read a first time this this 12th day of November 2024

Read a second time this this 26th day of November 2024

Read a third and final time this this 26th day of November 2024



Mayor – Rhonda Hunter



Chief Administrative Officer – Ethan Gorner

SCHEDULE "A"
(GST exempt, unless otherwise stated)

Residential Solid Waste Service Charges

	CAD(\$)	
Solid Waste Service Fee	20.85	per month
Additional Black Bin Service (garbage)	7.30	per month
Additional Blue Bin Service (recycling)	4.85	per month
Additional Green Bin Service (compost)	2.30	per month
Replacement Bin (plus GST)	120.00	each
Change of Service Fee – added black or blue bin (plus GST)	35.00	per change
Change of Service Fee – added green bin service (plus GST)	15.00	per change
One-Time Rebate for Purchase of Composter (proof of local purchase required)	(50.00)	Utility bill credit

Water Service Charges

	CAD(\$)	
Bulk Water Charge	6.50	per m ³
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters 1" and less	22.75	per month
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters from 1 ¼" to 2"	91.00	per month
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters 3" to 4"	204.75	per month
Water Consumption Rate	3.42	per m ³
Water Distribution Rate	1.63	per m ³
Water meter testing deposit	200.00	Each
Water Shutoff/reconnection fee	100.00	per call out
Water Meter Sales – all sizes (plus GST)	Actual Cost plus 10%	

Wastewater Service Charges

	CAD(\$)	
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters 1" and under	10.50	per month
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters from 1 ¼" to 2"	40.75	per month
Infrastructure Fee – connections with meters 3" and over	91.70	per month
Wastewater Distribution Rate	1.45	per m ³
Wastewater Distribution Rate – users without water service	26.75	per month

Miscellaneous Charges (charged to each account)

Utility Penalties on overdue balances	2.0%	per month
Printed Utility Bill (per printout)	\$ 2.00	per month
Non-Resident Account Deposit	\$ 200.00	each
Non-Resident surcharge		35%