

Order No. 12/18

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WHITEMOUTH
WHITEMOUTH WATER UTILITY,
WHITEMOUTH SEWER UTILITY, AND
SEVEN SISTERS SEWER UTILITY
APPROVAL TO WITHDRAW RATE APPLICATION**

January 16, 2018

**BEFORE: Carol Hainsworth C.B.A., Panel Chair
Susan Nemec, FCPA, FCA, Member**

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1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves a request to withdraw the current rate application made by the Rural Municipality of Whitemouth (RM) for the Whitemouth Water Utility, the Whitemouth Sewer Utility and the Seven Sisters Sewer Utility.

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

2.0 Application

On May 16, 2016, the RM applied to the Board for revised water and wastewater rates for its three Utilities, the Whitemouth Water Utility, the Whitemouth Sewer Utility and the Seven Sisters Sewer Utility. A rate study accompanied the application that was prepared by the RM's consultant, which combined the three Utilities financials and requested new rates for each utility. A Public Notice of Application was issued on June 23, 2016, with no responses received.

On December 7, 2017 the Board requested that the RM provide and resubmit separate "Schedule of Utility Rate Requirements" (Appendix B of the Rate Application) for each of the utilities within the RM (Water Utility, Sewer Utility, Seven Sisters Sewer Utility), in order for the Board to process the current applications as rate determinations were not clear. The Board advised the RM to provide separate Utility Rate Requirements or three separate rate applications.

In response to the letter, the RM has requested the Board's approval to withdraw its current application. The RM has informed the Board of Council's approval to hire a consultant to complete three separate rate studies.

On January 5, 2018, the RM sent a letter to the Board accompanied by Resolution No. 376/17 stating its intent to formally withdraw the current rate application and that a consultant has been secured to complete three separate rate studies for the three utilities.

3.0 Board Findings

The Board approves the RM's request to withdraw the rate application as separate rate requirements is needed in reviewing and approving rates for utilities.

The Board is concerned with the inadequacy of the rates that the RM is currently charging. The Board is also concerned with the deficits that the Whitemouth Water Utility and Whitemouth Wastewater Utility are experiencing as well as the working capital deficiency for both of these utilities.

The Board directs the RM to submit an application and rate study for revised rates for each of the three utilities, the Whitemouth Water Utility, the Whitemouth Sewer Utility and the Seven Sisters Sewer Utility, no later than **June 30, 2018**.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 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.

4.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Rural Municipality of Whitemouth's request for withdrawal of the application for revised water and wastewater rates for the Whitemouth Water Utility, the Whitemouth Sewer Utility and the Seven Sisters Sewer Utility is HEREBY APPROVED.
2. The Rural Municipality of Whitemouth file a report and application for revised water and wastewater rates for all three utilities, Whitemouth Water Utility, the Whitemouth Sewer Utility and the Seven Sisters Sewer Utility, by no later than June 30, 2018.

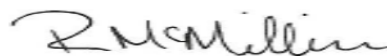
Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"Carol Hainsworth, C.B.A."
Panel Chair

"Rachel McMillin, B.Sc."
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 12/18 issued by
The Public Utilities Board



Acting Secretary