

Order No. 104/18

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH
ELKHORN WASTEWATER UTILITY
ACTUAL OPERATING DEFICIT RECOVERY FOR 2016**

July 27, 2018

**BEFORE: Shawn McCutcheon, Panel Chair
Irene A. Hamilton, Member**

The Public Utilities Board (PUB) issued Order No. 151/08 on November 07, 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 \$10,000 or represents 5% of the utility's operating budget; or
 - b. is caused as a result that differs from that upon which said approval was granted;

1.0 Application

On July 10, 2018 the Board received a deficit application for an actual utility operating deficit for 2016 in the amount of \$3,096 from the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth (RM), Elkhorn Wastewater Utility (Utility). The application was accompanied by Council Resolution # 18/315, requesting that the deficit be recovered through the Utility accumulated surplus.

The RM stated that the deficit was attributable to an increase in operating costs, which rate revenue was insufficient to recover. The RM is in the process of completing a review of the utility rates and will be submitting a rate application to the Board for revised rates.

Rates were last set in Board Order No. 79/10.

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 2016 audited financial statements for the Utility, the most recent information available, the working capital surplus at December 31, 2016 is as follows:

	2016	2015
Utility accumulated fund surplus	\$165,003	\$169,053
Deduct tangible capital assets	\$98,139	\$101,801
Add long term debt	\$0	\$0
Add utility reserves	\$10,302	\$10,281
Equals Working Capital Surplus	\$77,166	\$77,533
Operating costs	\$32,275	\$24,157
20% of operating costs (target)	\$6,455	\$4,831

2.0 Board Findings

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 of the deficit and for a recovery methodology.

The Board approves the 2016 utility operating deficit of \$3,096 to be recovered through the Utility's accumulated surplus account.

3.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The actual utility operating deficit, when calculated for regulatory purposes, for 2016 in the amount of \$3,096 incurred in the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth – Elkhorn Wastewater Utility is HEREBY APPROVED to be recovered from the Utility's accumulated surplus, effective the date of this Order.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

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 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pub.gov.mb.ca.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

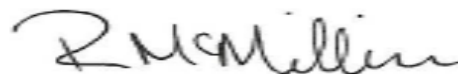
"Shawn McCutcheon"

Panel Chair

"Rachel McMillin, B.Sc.,"

Acting Secretary

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Acting Secretary