NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

AMENDED NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, on behalf of the existing three water utilities (Parrsboro, Pugwash and Springhill) to amalgamate the three utilities into one utility named the Cumberland County Water Utility and to apply for an Order authorizing and approving a new Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and a Schedule of Rules and Regulations

This matter will be considered in a public hearing as follows:

Hearing starts:	**Friday, December 2, 2022** **10:30 a.m.**
Hearing Details:	**GoToWebinar videoconference** **Details will be provided to the Parties**

Board Hearings are open to the public and you may participate as follows:

- You may listen to the live hearing by visiting the Board's website at https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca and selecting the "Listen to Live Hearings" option. This will enable you to see the electronic document display as well as hear the audio of the proceeding.

- You may speak at the hearing. You must notify the Board by **Tuesday, November 29, 2022.**

- You may make written comments by sending a letter to the Clerk of the Board at P.O. Box 1692, Unit "M", Halifax, NS B3J 3S3, or by email at: board@novascotia.ca, or by fax at (902) 424-3919 by **Tuesday, November 29, 2022.**

- You may request formal standing as an Intervener, subject to Board approval. This will allow you to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses. Your request must be received by the Board by **Thursday, September 15, 2022** and a copy of your written evidence by **Monday, October 24, 2022.**

Additional information about the matter is as follows:

a) Effective 2023/24
The current rates for the Parrsboro water utility are not based upon meter sizes. Due to this, a comparison of current quarterly water bills to proposed 2023/24 quarterly water bills is not available for Parrsboro customers.

Utility	Meter Size	Average Current Quarterly Water Bill ($)	Average Proposed Quarterly Water Bill ($)	% Increase
Springhill	unmetered	153.21	169.78	10.8%
	5/8” (residential)	108.09	118.18	9.3%
	3/4”	300.80	363.94	21.0%
	1”	669.28	832.77	24.4%
	1.5”	562.01	628.10	11.8%
	2”	1,520.26	1,837.60	20.9%
	3”	3,222.30	3,920.62	21.7%
	6”	20,257.08	28,882.38	42.6%
Pugwash	5/8” (residential)	99.52	118.18	18.7%
	3/4”	278.46	363.94	30.7%
	1”	620.54	832.77	34.2%
	1.5”	517.53	628.10	21.4%
	2”	1,406.65	1,837.60	30.6%
	3”	2,982.61	3,920.62	31.4%
	4”	1,868.87	2,117.70	13.3%

b) Effective 2024/25

For the proposed Cumberland County Water Utility, for the unmetered customers, the quarterly water bill is proposed to increase from $169.78 to $206.01 (a 21.3% increase). For a 5/8” residential customer, the average quarterly water bill is proposed to increase from $118.18 to $151.32 (a 28.0% increase) in 2024/25. For the other metered services, the proposed average quarterly water bill increases range from 16.5% to 25.3% in 2024/25.

c) Effective 2025/26

For the proposed Cumberland County Water Utility, for the unmetered customers, the quarterly water bill is proposed to increase from $206.01 to $225.02 (a 9.2% increase). For a 5/8” residential customer, the average quarterly water bill is proposed to increase from $151.32 to $155.89 (a 3.0% increase) in 2025/26. For the other metered services, the proposed average quarterly water bill increases range from 5.4% to 12.0% in 2025/26.

d) Amendments are further proposed to the public fire protection charge to the Municipality. The current annual fire protection charges by each of the existing water utilities of Springhill and Parrsboro (the Pugwash water utility does not provide public fire protection), to the Municipality have an estimated combined total of $596,951. It is proposed to increase to $601,697 (a 0.8% increase) in 2023/24; $683,661 (a 13.6% increase) in 2024/25; and $747,473 (a 9.3% increase) in 2025/26.

Upon reviewing the Application, the Board, in its Decision, may determine that the proposed amendments should be as requested, higher, or lower.

A copy of the Application and any timetable applying to this matter may be viewed on the Board’s website at https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/, by clicking on "Matters & Evidence", and in the "Go To Files and Documents”, enter Matter No. **M10704,** and at the **Municipality of the County of Cumberland, 1395 Blair Lake Road, Upper Nappan, Nova Scotia**