



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Finance and Administration Committee
From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2025-F-6
Date: May 13, 2025

Subject:

Recommended New Water Rate for a 305-mm (12 inch) Water Meter

Recommendation:

That the Finance and Administration Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the following new 2025 water rates be adopted for a 305-mm (12 inch) water meter:
- i) Service Charge - \$5,396.18 per month
 - ii) Minimum Bill - \$6,403.00 per month; and
- B) That the Regional Solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary by-law to implement this recommendation.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Regional Council's approval of a 2025 water rate for a 305-mm (12 inch) water meter which is projected to be installed this year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Water Supply and Sanitary Sewer User Rate Study is prepared annually to establish water supply and sanitary sewer user rates for the following year.
- 2.2 Following Council's approval of the 2025 Water Supply and Sanitary Sewer User Rate Study ([Report #2024-COW-55](#)), the need for a water service charge and water minimum bill rate for a 305-mm (12 inch) water meter was identified.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 On December 18, 2024, Regional Council approved the 2025 Water Supply and Sanitary Sewer User Rates ([Report #2024-COW-55](#)).

4. Recommended Water User Rates for a 305-mm (12 inch) Water Meter

- 4.1 Regional water customers are billed consumption charges based on the actual amount of water used as registered on a Regional water meter and monthly service charges which are based on a customer's water meter size. The water service charge recovers the costs of providing water services that are not dependent on the volume of water used and include the cost of:
- a. the initial installation, ongoing maintenance and repair and replacement of water meters;
 - b. maintaining water service pipes on public property;
 - c. providing fire protection capacity in the water system including larger mains, hydrants, and water storage; and
 - d. customer service, billing and collection activities.
- 4.2 The 2025 approved water user rate schedule includes water service charges for meters ranging in size from a standard meter, used by typical residential and small commercial customers, at \$22.81 per month up to a 254-mm (10-inch) water meter at \$3,840.55 per month. The 254-mm (10 inch) water meter was the largest meter installed in the Region at the beginning of 2025.
- 4.3 The size of the meter is measured by the internal diameter of the pipe installed to supply the customer and is determined based on individual customer water demand characteristics.
- 4.4 Based on projected demands of a Regional water customer, the Region will be installing a new larger 305-mm (12 inch) water meter in 2025. To facilitate billing for this new larger water meter, the following new 2025 water rates are recommended:
- a. 305-mm (12 inch) water meter:
 - Service Charge - \$5,396.18 per month
 - Minimum Bill - \$6,403.00 per month
- 4.5 The sanitary sewer rates are not affected as sewer rates do not vary by meter size.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Directions and Pathways in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

a. Resilient Local Economies

- R1. Attract and retain quality employers that strengthen key economic sectors, including energy and technology.

b. Strong Relationships

- S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

5.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

a. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Based on projected demands of a Regional water customer, the Region will be installing a new larger 305-mm (12 inch) water meter in 2025. To facilitate billing for this new larger water meter, the following new 2025 water rates are recommended:

a. 305-mm (12 inch) water meter:

- Service Charge - \$5,396.18 per month
- Minimum Bill - \$6,403.00 per month

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original Signed By

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer