

Town of Saltcoats  
Annual Waterworks Rate Policy  
2022

Bylaw 08-2021, being a bylaw to set water and sewer rates for the Town of Saltcoats was adopted by Council in November 2021. Rates established intend to generate enough revenues to cover the water and sewer operating costs and plan for future capital expenditures related to utility infrastructure renewal. Water and sewer operating costs, or expenditures, including water works staff, benefits and training, power, telephone, heating, insurance, chemicals, repairs and maintenance, supplies etc. The revenue generated may also be used to pay for debt retirement, capital expenditures and reserves. Reserves were required to assist in addressing water and sewer infrastructure renewal and replacement of the aging water and sewer infrastructure as required.

The objective of the water and sewer rate policy is to work towards water and sewer works that are self-financing, where users pay the cost of the service. To accomplish this, the rates need to increase over time so that the revenues cover operating costs and future capital expenditures. As part of the annual budget process, Council will review the policy and consider future rate increases to build financial reserves, cover operating expenses and plan future infrastructure maintenance and replacement costs.

This water and sewer rate policy will work towards financially independent water and sewer works that do not have to compete with other key municipal financial demands under the general revenue fund. This will ensure our water works can provide safe drinking water. Also, rates that cover costs will influence consumer demand and water conservation, and self-financing utility works will reduce pressures on property taxes.