

## **2017 Rate-Supported Budget Highlights**

### **Waterworks**

Proposed water rate increases are in accordance with the long-term Drinking Water System Financial Plan (as mandated by Provincial legislation), approved in November 2013 adjusted to cover costs of new initiatives approved by Council. This Plan maintains the City's water rates overall at affordable levels and provides a sustainable water system that will provide safe drinking water today and into the future as well as a progressive water rate structure that benefits those who conserve. For 2017, the proposed water rate increase is 3.0%.

#### *Highlights of proposed changes for residential customers:*

- 1) Fixed cost will total \$266.55 a year for single detached residential properties
- 2) "Volumetric" charge for water used will be \$1.597/m<sup>3</sup>

For the average household using 200 cubic meters of water in a year, the proposed 2017 water rate equals a \$17.06 increase, or 3.0%, over 2016 rates, with total costs for all water services averaging only \$1.61 a day.

#### *Highlights of proposed changes for non-residential customers:*

- 3) Fixed cost will vary based on meter size
- 4) "Volumetric" charge for water used will be \$0.988/m<sup>3</sup>

For industrial, commercial and multi-residential buildings, customers will also see an increase of 3.0% over 2016 rates.

### **Wastewater (Sewer)**

Wastewater surcharges will remain at 90% of the total water fixed cost and volumetric charge consistent with the Wastewater System 20 Year Financial Plan that was approved in 2015. Wastewater surcharges will see a 3.0% increase over 2016 rates.

For the average household with sewer service, the surcharge cost will be \$1.44 per day in 2017.

### **Solid Waste (Landfill & Recycling)**

The minimum charge for a trip to the Landfill remains at \$10 and is applicable on loads up to 140kg. Tonnage charge for loads over 140kg will increase 3.0% to \$72.53/tonne. A 200 kilogram load of waste will cost \$0.42 more than in 2016.

### **Affordability**

Thunder Bay water and wastewater rates remain affordable. For the average Thunder Bay household, the proposed total costs for sewer and water average \$1,113 for 2017, or 1.3% of median household income, based on 2014 Statistics Canada data. The industry standard is that rates are affordable for a combined water/sewer bill of 4% of median household income.