

## VILLAGE OF HILL SPRING

### BYLAW NO: 2010-294 UTILITY BYLAW

Whereas, pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26 as amended, the Village of Hill Spring has the power to enact a by-law establishing regulations regarding the provisions of public utilities.

And whereas, all waterworks, sanitary sewers, drains and sewer disposal works belong to the Village and shall be under the direct control and management of the Village.

Now therefore, the council of the Village of Hill Spring, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

This By-Law may be cited as “the Utility Bylaw”.

#### 1. DEFINITIONS

In this By-law, these definitions prevail:

- a) Administrator – Chief Administrative Officer of the Village
- b) Consumer – A person, firm, or corporation being the registered owner or the purchaser entitled to possession under an Agreement for Sale of Property.
- c) Council – Village council, duly assembled, serving in its legal capacity
- d) Domestic Use – water used for human consumption within the home and includes bathing, washing, toilet flushing, and watering of an outdoor area not exceeding one (1) acre. It does not include providing water to cattle.
- e) Irrigation water – water which is not treated, safe or suitable for human consumption that is supplied by the village through an underground system originating in the United Irrigation District canal adjacent to the village.
- f) Owner – person registered as owner of a property according to the Land Titles Act, or a person, firm, or corporation being the registered owner or purchaser entitled to possession under an Agreement for Sale of Property which is served by connection to any system or surface irrigation or potable water of the Village of Hill Spring.
- g) Penalty – a charge imposed by the village for a violation of this by-law
- h) Reasonable notice - is deemed to be 24 hours after posting of the notice at the site, or the arrival of a notice by registered mail at the mailing address of the site owner or occupier.
- i) Rural account – utility account serving property outside the Village
- j) Sewer or sewage service – system of removal of sewage from buildings via underground pipes to its ultimate disposal in the village sewage settling pond.
- k) Utility invoice – an invoice rendered to a consumer for rates/charges payable according to this Bylaw
- l) Utility service/services – includes, as the context requires:
  - i. Supply of water
  - ii. Provision of waste water collection/disposal
  - iii. Provision of solid waste services at local transfer station
  - iv. Irrigation water
- m) Village – Corporation of the Village of Hill Spring; the area contained within its boundaries.
- n) Water – potable water that has been treated in the village water treatment system so that it is safe and suitable for human consumption.
- o) Water meter or meter – means a device approved by the village and used for measuring the volume of water delivered to a site.

#### 2. RATES

- a) Every consumer shall pay to the Village of Hill Spring the rates as established by this bylaw.
- b) The Administrator shall have the right to determine into which classification any service belongs. Disputes can be appealed to Council; council's decision will be final and binding.
- c) Rates charged by council shall cover all the costs of operating and maintaining the water, sewer, solid waste, and irrigation systems.

### **3. SERVICE**

- a) Any consumer who desires a water service connection, or a sewer connection, or an irrigation service connection from the Village shall apply to the Administrator. In the case of an occupant who is not an owner, the consumer (owner) must make the application rather than the occupant who is not the owner.
- b) Any site inside the village which is provided with water service must also be provided with sewer service. However, any property which is non-compliant with this paragraph on the date of proclamation of this by-law, may continue in non-compliance until such time as the village is able to provide sewer service.
- c) Council may refuse to change any existing services at any time for any reason which it may consider sufficient.
- d) A reconnection fee as outlined in Schedule "A" may be charged whenever the water is required to be turned off or reconnected.
- e) Consumers with delinquent accounts, as outlined in Section 4, will be charged a fee to turn off the water and an additional fee to reconnect. See Schedule "A" for fees.
- f) It is the responsibility of any consumer who is provided with water and/or sewer service, to prevent freezing of water lines or sewer lines. If freezing occurs and causes damage to any property owned by the village the cost of repairs and the cost of any water lost (if determined) shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

### **4. BILLING REGULATIONS**

- a) A utility notice showing the service charges to consumers shall be mailed to the property owner on a regular basis as determined by the Administrator, and payment of these accounts shall be due and payable on or before the due date shown on the invoice, which shall not be less than 30 days from the date of mailing. The water service charge shall be combined on the same utility invoice with the irrigation charges, sewer charges and the solid waste (garbage) charges but each of these charges shall be calculated separately and separate entries shall be made on the utility invoice.
- b) Prior to the enactment of this by-law, some occupants who are not owners have been allowed to apply for and pay for their own utilities, and the utility notice has been mailed to the occupant. Council and the Administrator retain the right to alter this arrangement should it be deemed necessary. All future services to properties which are rented or which are under an Agreement to Purchase shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property and the utility notices shall be mailed to the said property owner.
- c) In the event that any utility invoice remains unpaid beyond the payment due date, a penalty shall be part of the arrears and subject to collection in the same manner as all other rates and charges. The penalty shall be in the form of an interest rate as contained in Schedule "A".
- d) Those customers whose accounts are delinquent in excess of four (4) months will be served notice of disconnection of water service. Those consumers who do not pay their

account in full will have their service disconnected one week after receiving notice of disconnection. Any unpaid utility charges may be transferred to the tax account of the property where the utility service is established. Any amounts transferred will be subject to the same penalties as tax arrears on that account.

- e) Payment of utility accounts is to be made at the office of the Administrator, in person, by mail, via the village mail slot or by Internet Banking. Accounts submitted by mail shall be deemed to be received on the postmark date shown on the envelope. Failure to receive an account billing shall in no way affect the liability of the consumer to pay the account.
- f) Post-dated cheques will not be accepted in payment of any account.
- g) Any consumer intending to vacate any premises that has been supplied with water from the waterworks or who is desirous of discontinuing the use thereof shall give two (2) days notice of the same at the Village Office, and the water and sewer charges will be discontinued. Otherwise the established rates may be charged until such notice is given and the water turned off.
- h) The said utility charges and or penalties shall be:
  - i. a debt recoverable by action,
  - ii. a lien upon the property and subject to the same penalties and
  - iii. collectible in the same manner as taxes due and owing
- i) Utility services are provided by the Village to owners only. Any indebtedness is the responsibility of the owner.

## **5. WATER METERS**

- a) Every building which is provided with water via the Village of Hill Spring water distribution system is required to have a water meter which is approved by the Village of Hill Spring.
- b) Every meter must have attached to it, an approved electronic device which duplicates the meter reading including the meter serial number, and the volume of water which has gone through the meter. The electronic device may be attached to a radio sending unit provided by the village. The cost of the electronic units is the responsibility of the Village of Hill Spring.
- c) When a meter has been installed in existing construction by an employee of, or a contractor working for the Village, the Village is responsible for the water tight integrity of the installation.
- d) Any damage to the meter or to village owned plumbing upstream from the meter caused by any form of neglect by the building owner, including but not limited to allowing the installation to freeze, is the responsibility of the building owner to have repaired promptly by a licensed plumber. Any costs associated to the repair or replacement of the meter or plumbing are the responsibility of the building owner.
- e) If a meter or village owned plumbing upstream from the meter, is damaged or fails to maintain water tight integrity, it is to be immediately reported to the village of Village of Hill Spring.

## **6. IRRIGATION**

- a) Every consumer whose property is served by connection to any system of surface irrigation of the Village of Hill Spring, shall pay annually a surface irrigation service fee as contained in Schedule "A".
- b) The said charge shall be paid in bi-monthly increments each consisting of one sixth (1/6) of the total annual fee.
- c) Any consumer whose property is served by connection to any system of surface irrigation of the Village of Hill Spring, and who requests disconnection of that service, shall pay to the Village of Hill Spring a disconnection fee as contained in Schedule A.
- d) Any consumer who's property was previously served by connection to any system of surface irrigation of the Village of Hill Spring and who requests reconnection of that service shall pay to the Village of Hill Spring a reconnection fee as contained in Schedule "A".
- e) Any consumer whose property was not previously served by the village irrigation and who requests installation of the village irrigation system, shall pay for connection to the village irrigation system as contained in Schedule "A".
- f) Irrigation water is obtained from the United Irrigation District, and the Village of Hill Spring is not responsible for either the quantity or the quality of water provided for irrigation within the village.

## **7. SOLID WASTE**

- a) No-one shall deliver, to the Solid Waste Transfer Station operated by Chief Mountain Solid Waste Transfer Authority, any solid waste which has not been generated on his or her property in the Village of Hill Spring.
- b) The owner of any property in Hill Spring which contains a residence is required to pay a fee assessed bi-monthly by the village for the use of the local solid waste transfer station. The fees payable to the village are contained in schedule "A".

## **8. VIOLATIONS**

- a) No person or corporation whether a consumer or occupier of a building in the Village of Hill Spring, shall obtain village supplied potable water which has not been measured through the approved water meter. Any person who refuses to have a water meter installed will have their water service disconnected. If the person denies permission to have the water meter installed, the water will be shut off with 14 days notice.
- b) No person or corporation whether a consumer or occupier of a building in the Village of Hill Spring shall have installed, a device or method for providing village supplied potable water to the building or any other place without the water having travelled through the approved water meter.
- c) No person or corporation whether a consumer or occupier of a building not within the Village of Hill Spring, shall obtain village supplied potable water which has not been measured through the approved water meter.
- d) No person or corporation whether a consumer or occupier of a building not within the Village of Hill Spring shall have installed, a device or method for providing village supplied potable water to the building or any other place without the water having travelled through the approved water meter.

- e) No person or corporation whether a consumer or occupier of a building in the Village of Hill Spring shall have installed a device or a connection between the potable water system and the village irrigation system for any purpose.
- f) No person or corporation whether a consumer or occupier of a building in the Village of Hill Spring shall alter, adjust, disconnect, or in any other way tamper with a water meter or its attachments installed on the village water system. If a village water meter or attachment suffers damage resulting from a violation of this section, the consumer shall, in addition to a penalty indicated in Schedule "A", be responsible for the cost of repairs to the meter or its attachments.
- g) No owner or person in charge of a premises in which water and sewer service is being provided, is to place, or allow to be placed in the sewer system anything other than human waste, toilet tissue, and grey water residue from bathing, dishwashing and other domestic uses. No toxic or potentially environmentally damaging substance may be placed in the village sewer system.
- h) Curb stops shall be operated only by those authorized by the Administrator to do so. Any person violating this section will be subject to a penalty and be liable for the cost of repairing any damage resulting from the operation of the curb stop.
- i) Effective on the date of third reading of this by-law, no person shall connect any weeping tile or eaves-troughs to the sanitary sewer system.
- j) Each village owned irrigation water connection is contained in an irrigation box adjacent to the properties serviced. Each irrigation box contains two connections for standard domestic or "garden" hoses, one for each adjacent lot. No person shall, alter, adjust, remove, or otherwise modify the village-owned irrigation connection.
- k) No consumer or occupier or person shall use irrigation water which is obtained from the village irrigation system via a modified village-owned irrigation connection.
- l) Any consumer or occupier of a premises in the Village of Hill Spring who allows water from the village irrigation system to flow from that consumer's or occupier's property onto adjacent property whether privately or publicly owned shall pay a penalty as indicated in Schedule "A",
- m) Any consumer or other person who violates Section #8, is liable for a penalty as contained in Schedule "A".

## **9. ACCESS TO PROPERTY**

- a) Access to property shall be governed by the Municipal Government Act division 4, sections 541 to 544(1)
- b) The Chief Administrative Officer or a designated officer may inspect 20% of the meters installed in the village on an annual basis, as per section 542(1) of the Municipal Government Act.

## **10. GENERAL**

- a) No further potable water connections shall be allowed by the village to any residence or other place located outside the boundaries of the Village of Hill Spring.
- b) The Administrator may, at any time, restrict the irrigation of any lawn, garden or plot for such time as the Administrator may deem fit, if the available supply of water in the opinion of the Administrator shall so require.

- c) Any residential buildings newly constructed or newly moved into the village must be connected to the village water distribution system, and must also be connected to the Village sewer system within one week of the completion of construction, and before occupancy. Effective from the date of proclamation of this by-law no new outhouses or septic fields or septic tanks may be constructed or located on any property inside the village.
- d) Developed but vacant premises without water services currently turned on shall not be invoiced for solid waste disposal charges. Premises under construction shall be invoiced for solid waste disposal charges, which will be payable by the consumer.
- e) Utility accounts outside of the municipal limits of the Village of Hill Spring are subject to fees 150% of those inside the village. Service, conditions, and billing regulations are the same as those inside the village. However, some individual agreements have been drawn up for rural customers establishing different rates. Those individual agreements are binding on the village and the rural customer who negotiated the agreement. They are however, subject to revision should the property change ownership.
- f) Should a major repair or upgrade be required to the village water treatment system or water delivery system, the costs associated to the repair or upgrade shall be apportioned pro rata to all users of the system.
- g) Property owners of the Village of Hill Spring shall have their pro rata portion of the repair or upgrade added to the property tax payable on each property. The village may, in lieu of adding the cost of a repair or upgrade to village property taxes, choose to pay from general revenue or from an applicable grant, the amount owing by village property owners for the repair or upgrade.
- h) Any situation with respect to utilities which is not addressed in this bylaw will be governed by the Municipal Government Act.

If any section, subsection or clause of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

This bylaw rescinds the following bylaws: 102-280, 98-242, 100-252 and 102-257

Read a FIRST time this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010

Read a SECOND time this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010

Read a THIRD time and finally passed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010

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Peter W. Griffiths,  
Mayor

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Brian Kitchen  
Chief Administrative Officer.

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**FEES:**

1. The fee to be billed bi-monthly for the provision of potable water shall be a base standard rate of \$52 for each two month period.
2. In addition to the amount billed bi-monthly for the provision of potable water, there shall be an additional billing bi-monthly for potable water at the following rates.
3. ---For the first thirty six (36) cubic metres used for each two month period, no extra billing.
4. ---For the first four (4) cubic metres in excess of the first thirty-six (36) cubic metres, an additional billing of \$2.00 per cubic metre or part thereof.
5. ---For the first four (4) cubic metres in excess of the first forty (40) cubic meters, an additional billing of \$3.00 per cubic metre or part thereof.
6. ---For any amount over forty four (44) cubic metres, an additional billing of \$5.00 per cubic metre or part thereof.
7. The fee for disconnection of water service by the village due to non payment of an account shall be \$100.00.
8. The fee for disconnection of water service by the village for any reason other than non payment of an account shall be \$20.00.
9. The fee to be billed bi-monthly for the provision of sewer service shall be a base standard rate of \$29.00 for each two month period.
10. The fee to be billed bi-monthly for the provision of solid waste (garbage) service shall be a base standard rate of \$14.00 for each two month period.
11. The fee to be billed annually for provision of any system of surface irrigation by the Village of Hill Spring is to be \$120.00 which is to be paid at the rate of \$20.00 bi-monthly.
12. The fee to be billed for disconnecting the irrigation service is to be \$75.00 to be paid upon disconnection.
13. The fee to be billed for re-connecting the irrigation service is to be \$75.00 to be paid upon re-connection.
14. The fee to be billed for establishing a connection to the irrigation system for a parcel of land not previously served by the irrigation system shall be the actual cost of installation of the irrigation system.
15. If any invoice remains unpaid beyond the payment due date, a penalty of 2% per month compounded monthly shall be added to the amount owing.

**PENALTIES:**

1. Penalties levied under this by-law are to be paid within 30 days of notice to the consumer, such 30 days notice beginning the day following the arrival at the consumer's mailing address of a registered letter from the Village of Hill Spring to the consumer advising the consumer of the penalty.

2. Any un-paid penalties under section 8(a), 8(b), 8(e), 8(f) 8(g) and 8(h) of this by-law may be added to the Village of Hill Spring property taxes on the building property.
3. Any unpaid penalties under section 8(c) or 8(d) of this by-law are to be collected by enforcement.
4. Any person or corporation or consumer found to be in violation of section 8(a) to 8(f) of this by-law shall be liable for a first violation to a fine of \$1,000.00 and for a second or subsequent violation of \$2,000.00.
5. If a person or corporation or consumer violates section 8(h) of this by-law (operation of a curb stop) during an emergency, the village may waive any penalty and costs involved.
6. Any person or corporation or consumer found to be in violation of 8(g) of this by-law shall be liable for a first violation to a penalty of \$500.00 and for a second or subsequent violation of \$1,000.00.
7. Any person or corporation or consumer found to be in violation of 8(h) of this by-law shall be liable for a first violation to a penalty of \$100.00 and for a second or subsequent violation of \$200.00.
8. Any person or corporation or consumer found to be in violation of section 8(i) of this by-law shall be liable for a first violation to a penalty of \$1000.00 and for a second or subsequent violation of \$2,000.00. In addition to the foregoing penalties, any person or corporation or consumer found to be in violation of section 8(i) shall be required at the cost of the person or corporation or consumer to remove the connection which caused the violation.
9. Any person or consumer found to be in violation of section 8(j) or 8(k) of this by-law shall be liable for a first violation to a penalty of \$500.00, and for a second or subsequent violation a penalty of \$1,000.00.
10. Any person or consumer found to be in violation of section 8(l) of this by-law shall be liable for a first violation to a penalty of \$100.00, and for a second or subsequent violation a penalty of \$200.00.
11. Any person or consumer found to be in violation of section 10(c) of this by-law may be required by notice from the village to remove the septic field or outhouse as the case may be, by a specified time. If any person or consumer fails to comply with a notice under this section, the village may enter the property and remove the septic field or outhouse, and the owner of the property shall be responsible for a fee of:
  - a) in the case of a septic field \$1,000.00 or cost of such removal, whichever is greater, and
  - b) in the case of an outhouse, \$250.00 or the cost of such removal, whichever is greater.
12. In this by-law, costs payable by a consumer shall be either
  - a) The actual cost incurred by the village in the hiring of work done

Or

  - b) The actual cost of wages for a village employee to do the work including travelling to pick up rented equipment, plus the cost to rent equipment for the job,

plus an hourly rate for the use of village owned equipment. Hourly rates for village owned equipment are as follows:

- i. Large tractor - \$125.00 per hour
- ii. Small tractor - \$75.00 per hour
- iii. Large riding mower - \$75.00 per hour
- iv. Small riding mower - \$25.00 per hour
- v. Gas powered push mower - \$20.00 per hour
- vi. Gas powered string trimmer - \$20.00 per hour
- vii. Large village truck - \$125.00 per hour
- viii. Small village truck - \$75.00 per hour
- ix. Large village trailer - \$35.00 per hour
- x. Small village trailer - \$20.00 per hour
- xi. Gasoline powered water pump - \$20.00 per hour
- xii. Powered or unpowered hand-tools - no charge