

**BYLAW NO. 7-2026
OF THE
TOWN OF VERMILION
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

**BEING A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF VERMILION TO REGULATE THE SUPPLY OF WATER
AND THE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER SERVICES**

WHEREAS pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended from time to time, Council may establish, operate and regulate public utilities;

AND WHEREAS Council deems it necessary to regulate the provision, use, billing, collection and administration of municipal water and wastewater utility services;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Town of Vermilion, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. SHORT TITLE

- 1.1. This Bylaw may be cited as the "Water and Wastewater Utility Bylaw".

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. The definitions listed in Schedule "A" attached to this Bylaw shall apply unless the context otherwise requires.

3. ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1. Except where specific authority is reserved to Council, the administration and enforcement of this Bylaw is delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer.
- 3.2. Without limiting Section 3.1, the Chief Administrative Officer may:
- 3.2.1. Delegate powers, duties and responsibilities under this Bylaw to Town employees;
 - 3.2.2. Establish forms, procedures and administrative practices necessary to administer this Bylaw;
 - 3.2.3. Classify Utility Accounts in accordance with this Bylaw;
 - 3.2.4. Approve Service Connections, inspections and utility service requirements;
 - 3.2.5. Take enforcement action where required.

4. UTILITY ACCOUNTS

- 4.1. Residential Utility Accounts shall be established and maintained in the name of the registered Property Owner.
- 4.2. Utility Accounts shall be established in the name of one of the following:
- a) Property Owner;
 - b) A general contractor or developer in the case of a new building under construction; or
 - c) A condominium association on behalf of the condominium owners.
- 4.3. Residential Utility Accounts shall not be established in the name of a Tenant, except as provided for under the transitional provisions of this Bylaw.
- 4.4. Notwithstanding 4.2, Commercial Utility Accounts, Industrial Utility Accounts and Institutional Utility Accounts may be established in the name of the Property Owner or an authorized Tenant, subject to any administrative requirements established by the Town.
- 4.5. The person in whose name a Utility Account is established shall be responsible for all utility charges, penalties, fees and costs associated with that Utility Account, subject to the Town's authority to recover unpaid utility charges in accordance with this Bylaw and the Municipal Government Act.
- 4.6. The Town may provide billing information to Tenants or Property managers when authorized by the Property Owner.
- 4.7. A Person with an outstanding balance from an existing Utility Account shall be required to make payment in full prior to establishing a new Utility Account.
- 4.8. Existing Multi-Unit Accounts

Notwithstanding Section 4.1, where a Property contains multiple dwelling units that are separately metered and separately billed by the Town on the effective date of this Bylaw, such accounts may continue at the discretion of the Town, provided that the Property Owner remains ultimately responsible for any unpaid utility charges associated with the Property.

4.9. New Multi-Unit Accounts

The Town may require any new multi-unit development to be serviced through a single Utility Account established in the name of the Property Owner unless otherwise approved by the Town.

4.10. Notwithstanding Sections 4.1 and 4.2, any existing Residential Utility Account already established in the name of a Tenant on the effective date of this Bylaw shall remain in the Tenant's name until the Residential Utility Account is closed or the Tenant vacates the Property.

4.10.1. Upon closure of the Residential Utility Account or when the Tenant ceases to occupy the Property, any new Residential Utility Account shall be established and maintained in the name of the Property Owner.

4.11. Seasonal and Vacant Properties

4.11.1. Where a Property will be vacant, unoccupied, or unused for a period exceeding five (5) consecutive months, the Property Owner may notify the Town and arrange for the suspension of Utility Service unless otherwise authorized by the Town.

4.11.2. The temporary suspension or turn-off of Utility Service does not relieve the Property Owner of responsibility for any applicable fixed utility charges, garbage collection charges, recycling charges, or any other charges that may apply to the Utility billing of the Property.

4.11.3. The Town may require Utility Services to be shut off at the curb stop or by such other method as determined by the Town.

4.12. Any suspended Utility Service to a Property shall not be restored until any applicable fees, including any fees established by Council resolution or utility rate schedule, have been paid.

4.13. The Town may charge fees for the suspension, restoration, inspection, turn-off, or turn-on of a Utility Service, which fees shall be set by the Town's Fee and Charges Bylaw.

4.14. The Property Owner shall be responsible for all utility charges, penalties, fees, and costs incurred prior to the suspension of service.

4.15. Suspension of Utility Service does not close the Utility Account unless otherwise approved by the Town.

5. UTILITY RATE CLASSIFICATION

5.1. The Town shall classify Utility Accounts based on the primary use of the Property.

5.2. Utility classifications may include:

5.2.1. Residential;

5.2.2. Multi-Unit Residential;

5.2.3. Commercial;

5.2.4. Industrial;

5.2.5. Institutional;

5.3. The Town may, at any time, reclassify a Property where its use changes.

6. BILLING AND PAYMENT

6.1. Utility Charges shall be billed at intervals determined by the Town.

6.2. Rates, fees, penalties and charges shall be established by Council.

6.3. Payment shall be due on the date shown on any invoices issued by the Town for the Utility.

6.4. Overdue Utility Accounts shall be subject to penalties established by Council.

6.5. Where a Water Meter reading cannot be obtained, the Town may estimate consumption based on the historical consumption associated with the Utility Account.

6.6. Sanitary Sewer Charges shall be assessed in accordance with Council approved Utility rates.

6.7. Council may establish policies governing adjustments, exemptions or credits to Sanitary Sewer Charges where water supplied by the Town does not enter the Town's sanitary sewer system.

6.8. Billing Adjustments

6.8.1. Where the Town determines that a Utility Account has been incorrectly billed due to an error, inaccurate Meter reading, faulty Water Meter or related metering equipment,

incorrect account information, or other administrative or technical error, the Chief Administrative Officer may adjust the Utility Account to reflect the charges that would otherwise have been properly payable.

6.8.2. An adjustment under Section 6.8.1 may apply retroactively for a period not exceeding two (2) years from the date the error is discovered or from the date the Utility Account was established, whichever period is shorter.

6.8.3. Where unauthorized water consumption, unmetered consumption, Water Meter tampering, or interference with related metering equipment has occurred, the Town may estimate the consumption and adjust the Utility Account for a period of up to two (2) years prior to the date of discovery of the unauthorized consumption or tampering.

7. ARREARS AND COLLECTION

7.1. The person in whose name a Utility Account is established is responsible for payment of all Utility Charges, without limiting the Town's authority to recover unpaid Utility Charges from the Property Owner or transfer such charges to the tax roll where permitted by the Municipal Government Act.

7.2. Any unpaid Utility Charges, penalties, fees or costs may be transferred to the tax roll in accordance with the Municipal Government Act in the event they go unpaid.

7.3. The Town may discontinue Utility Services for non-payment.

7.4. Reconnection of Utility Services shall not occur until all arrears, fees and Utility Charges have been paid or satisfactory payment arrangements have been made with the Town.

8. SERVICE CONNECTIONS

8.1. No Person shall:

8.1.1. install, modify or connect to Utility Infrastructure without approval from the Town; or

8.1.2. access, operate, connect to, draw water from, or otherwise use a municipal fire hydrant or bulk water station without authorization from the Town; or

8.1.3. tamper with, damage, remove or interfere with any Water Meter or Utility Infrastructure except as approved by the Town; or

8.1.4. contravene a Water Restriction implemented under this Bylaw; or

8.1.5. interfere with the free discharge of the Wastewater System or any part thereof; or

8.1.6. remove, regrade, alter or obstruct any drainage swale or ditch whose construction has been approved by the Town; or

8.1.7. discharge any sanitary waste, industrial waste or other polluted water to any natural outlet within the Town, or any area within the jurisdiction of the Town, except where suitable pre-treatment has been approved in writing by the Town prior to discharge; or

8.1.8. release or allow the release of any matter containing a hazardous waste into the Wastewater System; or

8.1.9. produce or operate a private Wastewater System such as a dump station within the corporate limits of the Town, unless authorized by the Town.

8.2. The Town shall own and maintain all Utility Infrastructure from the main line to the Property line.

8.3. The Property Owner shall be responsible for and maintain all Utility Infrastructure located on private Property beyond the Property line.

8.4. The Property Owner shall be responsible for maintaining, repairing and clearing blockages, including root intrusion, within all Utility Infrastructure located on private Property beyond the Property line.

8.5. The Town retains ownership of all Water Meters and remote reading devices installed by the Town.

8.6. The Town may recover all costs associated with the repair, replacement, inspection, testing, or investigation of damaged or tampered Utility Infrastructure, Water Meters, remote reading devices, and Service Connections.

8.7. Backflow Prevention

- 8.7.1. The Town may require the installation, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and certification of backflow prevention devices where deemed necessary by the Town to protect the municipal water supply.
- 8.7.2. Property Owners shall install and maintain backflow prevention devices in accordance with municipal requirements and applicable provincial standards.
- 8.7.3. The Town may require proof of testing, inspection, maintenance, or certification of any backflow prevention device.
- 8.7.4. Failure to comply with a requirement under this section may result in enforcement action, including disconnection of water service.

9. WATER RESTRICTIONS

9.1. The Town may establish Water Restrictions or water use bans whenever deemed necessary to:

- 9.1.1. Protect the municipal water supply;
- 9.1.2. Respond to drought conditions, emergencies, or infrastructure failures;
- 9.1.3. Comply with restrictions imposed by the Town's regional water supplier;
- 9.1.4. Protect public health and safety;
- 9.1.5. Ensure the sustainable operation of the municipal Water System;
- 9.1.6. Protect the integrity and reliability of the municipal Water System.

9.2. The Chief Administrative Officer may implement temporary Water Restrictions and shall notify the public in accordance with the Town's usual process for public communications.

9.3. Water Restrictions may apply to all or a portion of the Town and may regulate or prohibit specified water uses.

9.4. Council may establish, by policy or resolution, Water Restriction levels, permitted uses, prohibited uses, and enforcement measures.

9.5. Any Person who fails to comply with a Water Restriction or water use ban is guilty of an offence and may be subject to penalties established by this Bylaw.

9.6. Priority of Water Supply

Where the Town determines that the available water supply may be insufficient to meet current or anticipated demand, the Town may regulate, restrict, suspend, or prohibit any use of water in order to preserve water for essential purposes.

9.7. Essential Services

For the purposes of this Bylaw, essential services include, but are not limited to:

- 9.7.1. Hospitals;
- 9.7.2. Supportive housing, residential care homes, and continuing care facilities;
- 9.7.3. Medical clinics;
- 9.7.4. Schools;
- 9.7.5. Fire protection;
- 9.7.6. Emergency response facilities;
- 9.7.7. Drinking water and sanitation requirements for Residential properties;
- 9.7.8. Municipal water and Wastewater facilities; and
- 9.7.9. Any other use designated by the Chief Administrative Officer as an essential use.

9.8. Non-Essential Uses

The Town may restrict, suspend, or prohibit non-essential water uses including, but not limited to:

- 9.8.1. Bulk water sales;
- 9.8.2. Water hauling operations;
- 9.8.3. Vehicle washing;
- 9.8.4. Commercial washing activities;
- 9.8.5. Lawn watering;
- 9.8.6. Irrigation systems;
- 9.8.7. Filling swimming pools, hot tubs, and recreational water features; and
- 9.8.8. Spray parks, splash pads, swimming pools, and other recreational water facilities.

- 9.9. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Bylaw, the Town may suspend, limit, ration, or prohibit service to any bulk water filling station, water hauling operation, Commercial washing facility, irrigation use, recreational use, or high-volume consumer where necessary to preserve water supplies for essential services.
- 9.10. No Compensation
No Person shall be entitled to compensation for losses arising from restrictions imposed under this section.
- 9.11. Compliance
Every Person receiving water from the Town shall comply with restrictions imposed under this section.
- 9.12. Any restriction or prohibition imposed pursuant to this section shall remain in force until rescinded by the Town and shall take effect immediately upon notice being provided by the Town.
- 9.12.1. Notice of a Water Restriction or water use ban may be provided by the Town through its website, social media, local media, direct notification, posted signage, or any other method deemed appropriate by the Town.

10. WASTEWATER SERVICES

- 10.1. No Person shall discharge any substance into the Wastewater System that may damage, obstruct or interfere with the operation of the system.
- 10.2. Prohibited discharges include:
- a) Hazardous substances;
 - b) Industrial waste without approval;
 - c) Grease, oils or solids likely to obstruct the system; and
 - d) Any material prohibited by provincial legislation.
- 10.3. The Town may require Property Owners to install and maintain, at their full cost and expense, grease interceptors, monitoring devices or other measures to protect the Wastewater System.
- 10.4. Stormwater and Groundwater Connections
- 10.4.1. Except as otherwise authorized by the Town, no sump pump, foundation drain, weeping tile system, roof drain, stormwater drainage system, or groundwater drainage system shall be connected to the municipal Wastewater System.
- 10.4.2. Existing connections in place on the effective date of this Bylaw may remain unless the Town determines the connection is causing or contributing to Wastewater System capacity limitations, excessive inflow and infiltration, treatment concerns, or other operational issues.
- 10.4.3. Where the Town determines that a connection described in Section 10.4.2 is adversely affecting the Wastewater System, the Town may require the Property Owner to disconnect, modify, or redirect the discharge in a manner acceptable to the Town within a time period specified by the Town.
- 10.4.4. The Town may establish standards, policies, or guidelines respecting acceptable methods of discharge or redirection of stormwater and groundwater.
- 10.5. Cost Recovery
- 10.5.1. The Town may recover all costs associated with damage to, obstruction of, interference with, or additional maintenance required for the Wastewater System resulting from any prohibited discharge, including grease, oils, solids, hazardous substances, or other materials discharged contrary to this Bylaw, from the Property Owner where the prohibited discharge originated from, or from the person or persons that caused or facilitated the prohibited discharge, and such costs are an amount owing to the Town from those persons..

11. RIGHT OF ENTRY

- 11.1. Authorized Town employees may enter Property at reasonable times for the purpose of:
- a) Reading Water Meters;
 - b) Inspecting Utility Infrastructure;

- c) Conducting maintenance or repairs on Utility Infrastructure;
 - d) Verifying compliance with this Bylaw; or
 - e) Investigating suspected violations.
- 11.2. No Person shall obstruct, hinder, or interfere with an authorized Town employee carrying out an inspection or other duty authorized under this Bylaw.
- 11.3. Where access is denied, the Town may pursue remedies available under the Municipal Government Act.

12. SERVICE INTERRUPTION

- 12.1. The Town may interrupt or discontinue Utility Services:
- a) For non-payment of any Utility Charges or related fees;
 - b) For maintenance or repairs, including an inability to access a Property to read or maintain a Water Meter;
 - c) During emergencies;
 - d) To protect public health and safety; or
 - e) To enforce this Bylaw.
- 12.2. The Town shall not be liable for damages resulting from utility interruptions.

13. PRIVATE WATER SOURCES

- 13.1. New private water sources within the Town's corporate limits are prohibited.
- 13.2. If at any time a private source of water is found and is not approved, notice to discontinue use will be given by the Town. Should the use of such water continue forty-eight (48) hours after the notice, such source or supply of water will be declared a nuisance and danger to public health and safety, and will be removed, filled up or otherwise abated.
- 13.3. All costs associated with the elimination of the private water source shall be the responsibility of the Owner of the private water source.

14. BULK WATER STATION

- 14.1. The Town may make water available for sale at the bulk water station, at a rate established by Council in the Town's Fees & Charges Bylaw, as amended from time to time. The Town is not obligated to supply water for bulk sale, and the supply of water may be interrupted for any reason and the supply of water is not guaranteed.
- 14.2. Any person wishing to use the Town's bulk water station must set up a billing account prior to use.
- 14.3. Contamination of bulk water station equipment is strictly prohibited. A fine will be imposed on any person responsible for such contamination.

15. ENFORCEMENT

- 15.1. Any Person who contravenes this Bylaw is guilty of an offence.
- 15.2. Where a contravention of this Bylaw is of a continuing nature, each day that the contravention continues constitutes a separate offence and may be subject to the applicable penalty prescribed under this Bylaw.
- 15.3. Where the Town is authorized under this Bylaw to issue a requirement, direction, notice, or order to a Person, the Person shall comply with the requirement, direction, notice, or order within the time specified by the Town.
- 15.4. The Town may issue notices, orders, fines, penalties or violation tickets in accordance with applicable legislation.
- 15.5. The Town may recover costs incurred as a result of a contravention of this Bylaw from the person who contravened the Bylaw..
- 15.6. A Peace Officer may issue violation tickets pursuant to the Provincial Offences Procedure Act.
- 15.7. The specified penalties for offences under this Bylaw are set out in Schedule "B".
- 15.8. In addition to any fine imposed, the Town may recover the full cost of repairing damage to municipal utility infrastructure and remedying any contravention through a civil claim or lawsuit or any other rights or remedies available to the Town at law or in equity..

16. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

16.1. The Town shall not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense arising from:

- a) Interruption of Utility Services, pursuant to this Bylaw or otherwise;
- b) Water pressure fluctuations;
- c) Water quality changes;
- d) Sewer backups;
- e) System failures; or
- f) Emergency shutdowns.

16.2. Without limiting the generality of Section 14.1, the Town shall not be liable for any damage, loss, cost, or expense arising from a sewer backup, Wastewater surcharge, or Wastewater System failure, blockage or root intrusion, unless such damage is caused by the gross negligence of the Town.

17. GENERAL PROVISIONS

17.1. The Chief Administrative Officer may establish forms, procedures and administrative requirements necessary to implement this Bylaw.

17.2. Nothing in this Bylaw limits the Town's rights under the Municipal Government Act or any other enactment.

18. SEVERABILITY

18.1. Every provision of this Bylaw is independent of all other provisions and if any provision is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all remaining provisions shall remain in force.

19. REPEAL

19.1. Bylaw 5-2020 and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

This Bylaw shall come into force and effect upon final passing.

INTRODUCED AND READ a first time this 15 day of September, 2026, A.D.

READ a second time this 6 day of October, 2026, A.D.

READ a third time this 6 day of October, 2026 A.D.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer

SCHEDULE "A"

DEFINITIONS

Chief Administrative Officer	means the Employee of the Town appointed to a position under Section 205 of the <i>Municipal Government Act</i> .
Commercial	means a Property used primarily for business, retail, office, professional, service, or hospitality purposes.
Commercial Utility Account	means a Utility Account established in relation to a Commercial Property.
Council	means the municipal Council of the Town of Vermilion in the Province of Alberta.
Fees and Charges Bylaw	means the Fees and Charges Bylaw of the Town currently in force, as amended or replaced from time to time.
Industrial	means a Property primarily used for manufacturing, processing, fabrication, warehousing, or similar operations.
Industrial Utility Account	means a Utility Account established in relation to an Industrial Property.
Institutional	means a Property primarily used primarily for governmental, educational, healthcare.
Institutional Utility Account	means a Utility Account established in relation to an Institutional Property.
Multi-Unit Residential	means a Property containing two (2) or more dwelling units that are served by a single Utility Services connection, or by multiple Utility Services connections under common ownership or management.
Municipal Government Act or MGA	means the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26, as amended or replaced from time to time.
Property Owner	means the Person registered as the owner of land pursuant to the Land Titles Act, RSA 2000, Chapter L-4, as amended or replaced from time to time.
Person	includes an individual, corporation, partnership, association, organization, society, government body, or other legal entity.
Property	means a parcel of land and any buildings or improvements located thereon.
Residential	means a Property used primarily for residential dwelling purposes.
Residential Utility Account	means a Utility Account established in relation to a Residential Property.
Sanitary Sewer Charges	Means charges levied for the use of the Town's sanitary sewer system, as set by Council.
Service Connection	means the piping, fittings, valves, Water Meters, and associated infrastructure connecting a Property to the municipal Utility Services or Wastewater System.
Tenant	means a Person occupying Property under a lease, rental agreement, or other arrangement with the Property Owner.
Town	means the Town of Vermilion and the area contained within the corporate boundaries of the Town.
Utility Account	means an account established with the Town for the provision of Utility Services.
Utility Services	means the provision of potable water, Wastewater collection, Wastewater treatment, or any combination thereof supplied by the Town.
Utility Charges	Means any and all fees, rates, surcharges, and other amounts charged for the provision of Utility Services as set by Council and authorized by the MGA and this or any other bylaw of the Town.
Utility Infrastructure	Means the Wastewater System and the Water System and all associated municipal infrastructure, including, without limitation, a Water Meter.

Water Restriction	means a temporary limitation, prohibition, or regulation of water use imposed by the Town, including restrictions required by a regional water supplier.
Wastewater	means any liquid waste discharged from a Property into the municipal Wastewater System.
Wastewater System	means all municipal infrastructure used for the collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal of Wastewater.
Water Meter	means a device supplied or approved by the Town for measuring water consumption.
Water System	means all municipal infrastructure used for the treatment, storage, transmission, and distribution of potable water.

Schedule "B" – Penalties

Section	Offence	Penalty
8.1	Unauthorized connection to utility system, unauthorized use of a utility system, damage to utility infrastructure, unauthorized use of hydrant or bulk water station	\$500.00
8.6	Water Meter tampering	\$1,000.00
8.7	Failure to install or maintain required backflow prevention device	\$500.00
9.5	Water Restriction violation (1st offence)	\$100.00
10.1	Discharge of prohibited substance to wastewater system	\$1,000.00
10.3	Failure to install or maintain required grease interceptor	\$500.00
11.2	Obstruction of Town inspection	\$250.00
15.3	Failure to comply with a written requirement of the Town issued under this Bylaw	\$500.00