

Order of the Bar Harbor Town Council

NUMBER: 2025-01-05

TITLE: ORDER, SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT TO  
CHAPTER 201, WATER, TO ADJUST WATER RATE STRUCTURE AND  
RATES

DISPOSITION: PASSED

Filed January 12, 2026  
Passed January 20, 2026

**WHEREAS**, the Town's water rates have not been increased since January 1, 2016, and the Town has engaged Olver Associates, who has been consulting with the Finance Director, Public Works Director, and water staff to perform a rate case study to present to the Town Council; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the 2025-2026 Town Council goal to adjust fee structures to be more equitable on consumption-based rates, the Town is proposing an increase on minimum rates for all customers, and an increase on the rate for water use about the on minimum (overages) effective on April 1, 2026 billing; and

**WHEREAS**, with Council Order 2026-01, the Town Council set a public hearing on the rate proposal for February 17, 2026, beginning the formal State of Maine statutory process for a rate adjustment which also includes notification to Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), notice to all water customers, and a final filing with the Maine PUC for approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the water rates are also included in Chapter 201, Water, of the Municipal Code, and an amendment is proposed to codify the proposed new rates; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption by the Town Council of the proposed amendment to Chapter 201 would be contingent on approval of the proposed rates by the Maine PUC, and would take effect April 1, 2026; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED**, that a public hearing is now scheduled for February 17, 2026, for public comment on the below Ordinance Amendment 2026-01, "An Ordinance Amendment to adjust water rate structure and rates."

**Water Ordinance Amendment**

Town of Bar Harbor

#2026-01

**An Ordinance Amendment to adjust water rate structure and rates.**

*The Town of Bar Harbor hereby ordains that Chapter 201, Water, of the Town Code is amended as follows:*

[Please Note: Old language is ~~stricken~~. New language is underlined.  
Subsections shall be re-numbered where appropriate.]

Statement of Fact: Schedules a public hearing for amendment to Chapter 201, Water, for the proposed new rates and rate structure.

**Chapter 201, Water**

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**§ 201-12. Water rates.**

- A. Rates adopted. Effective with the approval of the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the following rates are hereby established, unless otherwise approved by the PUC:
- B. Quarterly ~~and monthly~~ rates for water to 5/8-inch metered annual consumers:
  - (1) Quarterly rate:
    - (a) For the first 1,200 cubic feet per quarter: ~~\$76.17~~ \$102.83 per quarter.
    - (b) For the next 10,800 cubic feet per quarter: ~~\$4.42~~ \$5.97 per 100 cubic feet.
    - (c) ~~For the next 78,000 cubic feet per quarter: \$2.07 per 100 cubic feet.~~
    - (d) For all in excess of ~~90,000~~ 12,000 cubic feet per quarter: ~~\$1.35~~ \$4.18 per 100 cubic feet.
  - (2) ~~Monthly rate:~~
    - (a) ~~For the first 400 cubic feet per month: \$25.39 per month.~~
    - (b) ~~For the next 3,600 cubic feet per month: \$4.42 per 100 cubic feet.~~
    - (c) ~~For the next 26,000 cubic feet per month: \$2.07 per 100 cubic feet.~~
    - (d) ~~For all in excess of 30,000 cubic feet per month: \$1.35 per 100 cubic feet.~~
  - (3) Minimum charges:

Meter Size (inches)	Water Allowance (cubic feet)		Minimum Charge	
	Quarterly	Monthly	Quarterly	Monthly (Calculation)
5/8	1,200	400	<del>\$76.17</del> <u>\$102.83</u>	<del>\$25.39</del> <u>\$34.28</u>
3/4	1,800	600	<del>\$102.69</del> <u>\$138.63</u>	<del>\$34.23</del> <u>\$46.21</u>
1	3,000	1,000	<del>\$155.73</del> <u>\$210.24</u>	<del>\$51.91</del> <u>\$70.08</u>
1 1/2	6,000	2,000	<del>\$288.33</del> <u>\$389.25</u>	<del>\$96.11</del> <u>\$129.75</u>
2	9,600	3,200	<del>\$447.45</del> <u>\$604.06</u>	<del>\$149.15</del> <u>\$201.35</u>
3	18,000	6,000	<del>\$677.72</del> <u>\$914.92</u>	<del>\$225.91</del> <u>\$304.97</u>
4	30,000	10,000	<del>\$926.13</del> <u>\$1,250.28</u>	<del>\$308.71</del> <u>\$416.76</u>

6                      60,000                      20,000                      \$1,547.13 \$2,088.63    \$515.71 \$696.21

(4) Seasonal rates for 5/8-inch metered seasonal consumers:

(a) Seasonal rate:

- [1] For the first 1,600 cubic feet per season: ~~\$201.63~~ \$272.20 per season.
- [2] For the next 10,400 cubic feet per season: ~~\$8.87~~ \$11.97 per 100 cubic feet.
- ~~[3] For the next 78,000 cubic feet per season: \$4.13 per 100 cubic feet.~~
- ~~[4] For the next 300,000 cubic feet per season: \$2.07 per 100 cubic feet.~~
- [5] For all in excess of ~~390,000~~ 12,000 cubic feet per season: ~~\$1.58~~ \$8.38 per 100 cubic feet.

(b) Minimum charges:

Meter Size (inches)	Water Allowance (cubic feet)	Minimum Charge
5/8	1,600	<del>\$201.63</del> <u>\$272.20</u>
3/4	2,400	<del>\$272.66</del> <u>\$368.09</u>
1	4,000	<del>\$414.73</del> <u>\$559.89</u>
1 ½	8,000	<del>\$769.92</del> <u>\$1,039.39</u>
2	12,800	<del>\$1,158.19</del> <u>\$1,563.56</u>
3	24,000	<del>\$1,621.47</del> <u>\$2,188.98</u>
4	40,000	<del>\$2,283.28</del> <u>\$3,082.43</u>
6	80,000	<del>\$3,937.81</del> <u>\$5,316.04</u>

(5) Private fire protection:

(a) Availability. This rate is available to customers using the Town water service for private fire protection. The following rates apply to fire protection only and include no allowance for water for other than for fire-fighting purposes.

(b) Rates.

- [1] Each private hydrant furnished, installed and maintained by the user for private protection shall be charged for per year: ~~\$1,362~~ \$1,838.70.
- [2] Private fire service rate for automatic sprinklers, standpipes or hose connections to be used only for fire protection inside buildings: a charge per inch of service pipe diameter of ~~\$170~~ \$229.50 per year.

(6) Public fire protection:

(a) Availability. This rate is available to the Town of Bar Harbor for municipal fire

protection.

(b) Rates.

- [1] For the existing 105 hydrants installed as of ~~January 1, 2016~~ April 1, 2026, a total annual amount of ~~\$585,602~~ \$855,275.
- [2] Rates for hydrants installed after the effective date of the PUC order shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 690 of the Public Utilities Commission's Rules and Regulations.

[End of ordinance]

[End of order]