

Other Factors:

What is the timeline to make the connection?

There is no specific date to have the construction completed, HOWEVER, connection charges will apply after December 31st, 2020. The annual residential charge will be \$212.00 or \$53.00 per quarter. Invoices will be included with your annual sewer statement. Commercial fees will be according to Schedule "A of the Water Utility By-Law with respect to fixed meter charges.

Can we keep our well?

Yes, if the homeowner feels that the associated maintenance is worth the second connection, the well can be retained. **HOWEVER** there can be no physical connection between the well supply and the municipal supply. The two systems **MUST** be completely separated or isolated by a fully testable reduced backpressure-isolating valve, installed by a certified plumber. This is a registered device that requires certification by the homeowner on a yearly schedule. Refer to Town of Quispamsis Water Utility By-Law No. 24:6M regarding Cross-connection of systems.

Should we abandon our old well if we are not going to use it?

The Province of New Brunswick has standards for decommissioning wells no longer being used. Most well drillers are certified to do this. For a list of certified contractors or information on wells and well decommissioning, Contact the Department of Environment at: **1-800-561-4036**

Please find enclosed a copy of the regulations regarding well decommissioning. These may be viewed at: <http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0002%2De.pdf>

Will we require a water meter?

Yes. The connection will be fully metered, and cross-connection controlled. The Town will provide the water meter, cross-connection valve and expansion tank. There is no charge for the cross-connection valve or expansion tank. These devices will require installation by a licensed plumber at the homeowners cost.

Where will the water meter be located?

Water meters should be located in a dry area, where the water service pipe enters the foundation, just after the isolation valve. The details of the location can be discussed with the Utility Inspector or licensed plumber, as building styles and construction differ. The meter must be accessible and be mounted horizontally.

How is the meter read?

Meters are read by the Utility Department, by remote control four times per year. Once the built-in radio is tested, there should be no requirement to have access to the property again, except for occasional maintenance. Meters should not be covered by household items, and remain accessible. There are no wires, noise or any indication that the meter is communicating.

Who will do the connection work?

Construction work to connect your house to the municipal system can be carried out by several reputable contractors in the local area. Plumbing work within the home requires a plumber holding a current New Brunswick License. All work is to be coordinated by the homeowner at their schedule. It may be more efficient if several homeowners get together to have work done on multiple properties at the same time to save contractor mobilization costs.

What permits will be required?

Prior to any connection being made or construction taking place, the homeowner will be required to apply for a Water Connection Permit. Refer to Town of Quispamsis Utility By-Law No.24, section 5. Residential Utility permit fees are \$750. Commercial permits are \$1,500. Permit fees are a one time non-refundable charge.

Will Municipal water affect my appliances, such as the dishwasher?

NO. Municipal water differs little from well water. In fact it is well water, with added chlorine disinfectant. The Ph is relatively neutral. The hardness is approx. 300 ppm or 17 Grains per gallon. Complete chemical analysis of the Municipal water may be found at <http://142.166.3.145/utility.cfm> at Water

Who can we talk to about this to get more information?

- *Town of Quispamsis
General Inquiries
849-5778*
- *Town of Quispamsis
Planning & Engineering
849-5749*
- *Town of Quispamsis
Utility Department
849-5734*

TOWN OF QUISPAMSIS



*Municipal
Water System*

*Frequently
Asked
Questions*

TOWN OF QUISPAMSIS
Engineering Department

12 Landing Court
Quispamsis, NB E2E 4R2

Phone: (506) 849-5778
Fax: (506) 849-5799
Email: engineering@quispamsis.ca

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the advantages of having a municipal water supply?

All municipal water systems are regulated and approved by the New Brunswick Department of Environment, through the NB Clean Water Act and the New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness. Each water system is individually issued an **Approval to Operate** by the Province. Each system goes through an extensive annual audit process by all provincial regulators and is issued an Annual Compliance Evaluation Report to check each specific condition contained in the Towns' Approval to Operate.

Municipal water supplies are tested and monitored regularly for quality, such as bacteria, organic and inorganic parameters. They must meet all the Federal Health Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. Water in this system may be similar to your well water in hardness. It is low in contaminating minerals such as Arsenic, Iron, Manganese, Sulfur and Uranium. Municipal water samples are analyzed for bacteria on a weekly schedule.

Water analysis is carried out by independent certified laboratories, which report results to the Province of New Brunswick on a regular predetermined schedule.

A recent release from the Canadian Council Of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) report as high as 20% of all private wells contain bacterial contamination.

Municipal water supplies are disinfected with Chlorine at a level between 0.4 and 1.0 parts per million. This eliminates potentially harmful bacteria.

The municipal water supply you will be connected to is also designed to provide protection for your property in the event of a fire. Household and commercial property insurance premiums are generally lower reflecting this service. This water system will continue to operate during local power outages, and provides consistent pressure.

Municipal water systems provide support for the local economy. Both residential and commercial development that depend on a regulated water supply can flourish connected to the infrastructure.

Connection to a municipal water supply eliminates the maintenance associated with owning and operating individual water pumps, foot valves, silt, frost and contamination issues.

Further information on water quality and protection is available through the Town of Quispamsis web site at: www.quispamsis.ca

Costs:

Will I have to pay a connection fee to the Town?

Yes. The town will require a \$750 connection permit fee (non-refundable) to supply water to your residential property. (for non-residential properties - see schedule "A" of the Water Utility By-Law 24 for the costs associated with 'other than residential zones')

What will my on-going annual costs be?

There are 2 components of the water charge. (figures quoted are based on a standard residential meter size of (1") #1- a fixed charge component - currently \$141.75 per quarter (\$567.00 annually.) **(this is charged each year to homeowner's with access to the system whether or not connection to the system is made)** #2- a consumption charge based on a metered service (for those who choose to connect). For 2019, the current rates are:

Up to 96 cubic meters per quarter = \$0.85 per m3.

Above 96 cubic meters per quarter = \$1.35 per m3.

1 cubic meter equals approximately 220 imperial gallons. An average homeowner uses approximately 60 cubic meters per quarter, or 2/3 cubic meter per day.

The Town will supply a meter to all new and existing homes at the time of connection to the municipal water system.

-Ownership of the meter will remain with the Town of Quispamsis along with the required maintenance and or replacement of the meter.

-At the time of connection to the municipal water system your plumber making the final connection to your household plumbing will be responsible to install the meter to Town specifications.



What will it cost me to connect from my home to the water main?

As per Water Utility by-law 24, section 6G – *'the property owner is responsible for all costs of installing the service connection between the water main and the building including all repairs to streets, sidewalks, curbs, or any other public property disturbed.'*

The cost will vary per property depending on the property characteristics, soil type, length of pipe, in-dwelling plumbing modifications, landscaping and asphalt restorations. Usually several homeowners will receive better pricing than individuals, but it is recommended that any homeowner seek two or three quotations for the work to ensure competitive pricing. It is estimated that this cost could range from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

What are my options, if I can't afford to do this?

Under Town of Quispamsis 'General Local Improvement By-Law', No. 11 section 7: *'The owners portion of the work shall be paid in one lump sum; or by equal annual installments over a period of ten (10) years. The interest rate to be used in determining the annual installment is to be the interest rate paid by the Town for its most recent municipal bond sale.'* Currently, that rate is 2.36%.

What is General Local Improvement?

The Town may enter into an agreement with the owner of any land within the town to provide work that may be undertaken as a "local improvement". In this case the connection of the property to the watermain. All work must conform to the Town of Quispamsis *General Specifications for Construction and Development*. The owner shall coordinate the project and oversee the installation. The Town will inspect all work. This work is carried out at the owners' expense, but may be financed by the Town to be repaid over a period of time up to 10 years at a rate of 2.685% per year.

If there is sufficient interest among property owners, the Town may consider tendering a general contractor to make all the connections and assume coordination and administration of the project. Unit costs to each property owner then would be divided equally by the number of connections in the project. Billing for the work for each individual connection may be amortized over the ten-year period or paid in full (one lump sum) upon completion.