Report to Council

Department:	Corporate Services
Division:	Finance and Business Services
Date:	March 16, 2026
Prepared by:	Heather MacDonald, Manager, Revenue and Customer Relations
Report Number:	Finance and Business Services-2026-02
Subject:	2026 Union Water Supply System Wholesale Water Rate
Number of Pages:	

Recommendation(s)

That report "Finance and Business Services – 2026-02" entitled 2026 Union Water Supply System Wholesale Water Rate prepared by Heather MacDonald, Manager, Revenue and Customer Relations dated March 16, 2026 be received, and

That By-Law 2512 being a by-law to establish water and wastewater rates and charges be read a first, a second and a third time and finally passed on March 16, 2026.

Purpose

By-laws and Amendments to By-Laws require Council approval.

Background and Discussion

On February 2, 2026 a letter was received by the Town from UWSS regarding their 2026 rate increase. This rate increase is $0.0588 per cubic meter and is effective April 1, 2026. The Town's current water rates are detailed in By-Law 2490, where the adopted rate at January 1, 2026 was $0.7967 per cubic meter, therefore the new revised rate for UWSS is $0.8555 per cubic meter. A capital improvement levy of $0.03 per cubic meter is to be applied to greenhouse operations customers to support the treatment plant capacity expansion infrastructure projects, which is a $0.02/m3 increase over 2025.

Effective January 1, 2024, Union Water Supply System is now a Municipal Services Corporation and as such, the Town is required to separately show their Treatment and Transmission Rate. Only certain residents with access to the UWSS system have this rate applied. The rate is for operating and capital expenditures required to operate the UWSS and was approved by the UWSS board. This rate was previously included in the volume rate for residents in Wards 1 and 2.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the Town as the collection of the UWSS rate is remitted back to UWSS.

Consultations

Kate Rowe, CPA, CA, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer

Link to Strategic Priorities

☒ Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.

☐ Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.

☐ Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".

☒ Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.

☐ Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2026 Union Water Supply System Wholesale Water Rate.docx
Attachments:	- By-Law 2512 - amending By-Law 2490 Water and Wastewater Rates.docx - 02-02-26 Ltr to CAOs Rate Increase 2026_reviewed.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Feb 21, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Kate Rowe, Director, Corporate Services - Feb 17, 2026 - 4:38 PM

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Feb 21, 2026 - 12:54 PM