

The motions recorded in **SRD 128/25 and 129/25** represent a strategic administrative "pause" designed to ensure regional equity during the largest utility transformation in Electoral Area D's history. By suspending metered rates for **Kamstrup meters** until Phase 1 of the universal water meter project is complete, the Board has moved to prevent a fragmented billing system while protecting residents from the operational friction of a mid-project transition.

1. Technical Rationale: Standardizing the Billing Transition

The suspension is a direct response to the rollout of the **Northern Area D Universal Water Metering Project**, which is currently installing approximately **1,100 technologically advanced Kamstrup radio-read meters**.

- **Preventing a "Two-Tier" System:** Without this suspension, some residents (early adopters and early Phase 1 completions) would be billed based on actual consumption, while their unmetered neighbours would remain on a traditional flat rate.
- **Operational Readiness:** The contract with **Edgett Excavating Ltd.** for Phase 1 involves not only installation but the integration of new software for standardized reading and billing. Suspending metered rates ensures that the entire system launches concurrently once the technical infrastructure is fully verified.
- **Data Accuracy:** This pause allows regional engineers to utilize the Kamstrup meters for their primary initial purpose—**leak detection and system mapping**—without the immediate pressure of using that same data for live utility billing during a construction phase.

2. Fiscal Strategy: Protecting Taxpayers and "Early Adopters"

This move reinforces your **"Forward"** platform's commitment to fiscal fairness:

- **Zero Local Cost:** This entire transition is funded by the **\$2.8 million provincial grant** you secured, ensuring the modernization occurs at no cost to the local property tax levy.
- **Consistency with Bylaw No. 464:** This suspension complements your earlier victory in securing **account credits for "early adopters."** Having fought to ensure those who paid \$1,500 out-of-pocket were treated fairly, this motion ensures those same residents are not now penalized with potentially higher metered bills while the rest of the community is still being connected for free..

3. Governance Dynamics: The "Pro-Stability" Alliance

The procedural handling of these motions highlights your ability to maintain **corporate stability** through municipal partnerships:

- **The Rice/Chapman Partnership:** Both motions were moved by you (**Director John Rice**) and seconded by **Director Doug Chapman** (Campbell River). This collaboration between Area D and the City demonstrates a unified front to ensure the regional water system—which shares infrastructure with the City—is modernized with professional, data-backed oversight.
- **Managing Expectations:** The Board explicitly directed the Regional District to "advise water system users... to manage expectations". This adheres to the **"Accountability"** principle of the **Bylaw No. 513 Code of Conduct**, prioritizing

transparent communication to ensure residents understand that metered billing is coming, but will start only when the system is equitable for all.

4. Strategic Campaign Application for 2026

In the context of the **October 17, 2026 election**, this record provides factual evidence of your role as a **principled utility steward**:

- **The Narrative:** You can prove to voters that you are not just building infrastructure, but building the **rules** that make that infrastructure fair.
- **The Message:** *"I am moving Area D **forward** by demanding fairness for every household. By suspending metered rates until our \$2.8 million upgrade is complete, I have ensured that no resident is billed unfairly during our construction phase. I am delivering a modernized, leak-detecting water system while protecting your pocketbook during the transition"* 14-16.

In summary, carrying motions **SRD 128/25 and 129/25** provides the **administrative continuity** necessary to finish the universal metering project with integrity. It documents your ability to manage complex utility mandates through team-oriented leadership and a commitment to transparent, equitable governance.