

**AN ORDINANCE DELETING AND AMENDING ARTICLES WITHIN
CHAPTER 352, "WATER UTILITY"
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick that the following sections of Chapter 352 of the Code of the Township of North Brunswick entitled "Water Utility" are hereby amended as follows:

§ 352-18 Meters furnished by Utility. (Amended Sections C, F)

C. Water meter fees.

- (1) The property owner shall be charged for each meter supplied and for the initial installation of a new connection or for the replacement of an inadequately functioning existing meter whose inadequate functioning is the result of the actions or neglect of the property owner. ~~The Utility shall determine the property owner's fee to purchase each new meter.~~ The fee for purchasing meters up to two inches in size shall be based on size below. In addition to the cost of the meter, the property owner shall be assessed any installation cost incurred by the municipality to the engaged a third party to provide installation services.

Schedule of New Water Meter Fees	Meter Installation Fees	Pit-Set Meter Fees
5/8" - 3/4"	\$300.00	\$400.00
1"	\$400.00	\$500.00
1 1/2"	\$600.00	\$900.00
2"	\$700.00	\$1,000.00

- (2) For meters greater than two inches in size, the fee shall be determined on a case-by-case basis in the following manner: the fee shall be equal to the delivered purchase price of the meter as determined by the Utility or its water supply operator.

- E. Customers of the system shall be charged monthly facility service charge in accordance with the size of the meter as follows:

Meter Size Inches	Monthly Cost for Residential Meters	Monthly Cost for Commercial Meters
0.625"	\$ 3.00	\$ 6.00
0.75"	\$ 3.00	\$ 6.00
1"	\$ 4.00	\$ 7.00
1.5"	\$ 7.00	\$ 9.00
2"	\$ 13.00	\$ 16.00
3"	\$ 32.00	\$ 35.00
4"	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00
6"	\$ 57.00	\$ 63.00
8"	\$ 92.00	\$ 100.00
10"	\$ 125.00	\$ 135.00

- F. ~~If an account has more than one meter at the same service address, the portion of the monthly facility service charge which represents the cost of meter and billing maintenance shall be assessed only on the first meter of the account. Additional meters on the same account with the same service address shall only pay that portion of the facility charge representing the eventual replacement cost of the facility service charge.~~

If an account has more than one meter at the same service address that is used for an irrigation system, the monthly facility service charge shall 50% of cost from Section E, based on the size of the irrigation line.

§ 352-20 Payment of bills; water for billing purposes. (Amended Section A)

- A. All bills for water rents, fees, and other charges, except under building permits, shall be owing to the Township of North Brunswick upon the bill date. All rents, fees and charges that have not been paid within 30 days from the bill date shall bear interest at a rate of 8% per annum for principal amounts of \$1,500 or less and at the rate of 18% per annum for principal amounts in excess of \$1,500 or the maximum interest rate(s) allowed by state law. Interest shall be charged from the 31st day after the bill date until payment is made.
- In accordance with State and municipal authority which established a temporarily response to the COVID Pandemic, interest has been fixed or waived on water accounts beginning in

May of 2020. On June 14, 2021, Governor Murphy issued E.O. 246 modifying E.O. 229 to provide "a grace period shall be in effect from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021". E.O. 246 goes on to state at paragraph four that during the grace period, "no municipal utility or privately or publicly owned water system shall collect any fee or charge imposed for late or otherwise untimely payments". Pending any further ordered issued by the State, interest shall begin to accrue interest on outstanding amounts as of January 1, 2022. (Resolutions 133-4.20, 287-12.20, 145-5.21)

Payments shall be credited to the amounts owed in the following sequence:

- (1) Interest on sewer rents;
- (2) Interest on water rents;
- (3) Miscellaneous charges;
- (4) Sewer rents; and
- (5) Water rents.

North Brunswick Board of Education utility accounts shall not accrue interest.

- B. All users with meters shall be billed on a monthly basis regardless of the meter size, including meters dedicated to fire service or irrigation (lawn sprinklers).
- C. The Township will assess a \$25.00 charge whenever an existing customer, the property owner or the property owner's agent requests a "special meter reading" on a date other than the regularly scheduled meter reading. Requests for a "special meter reading" will only be made for accounts with an AMI Neptune meter. This charge may not be assessed to a new customer's account.

§ 352-21 Claims for account credits and deductions.

Claims for deductions from water bills for circumstances not provided for herein shall be made in writing to the Water Department who shall review such claims on a case-by-case basis with the Mayor. Final determination of a deduction or credit authorized below shall be subject to the review and approval of the Township Council.

Seniors.

The Township offers an annual Senior Citizen Utility credit that entitles seniors to receive in a credit in the amount of \$150 in 2021 and \$250 per annum in 2022 and future years. Beginning calendar year 2021 the credit will be applied annually to customers that receive the State \$250 Senior Tax Deduction. A written request must be submitted to receive a credit if approved under the Senior Tax Freeze Program. ~~The credit shall be \$75 for calendar year 2020.~~ To be eligible to receive the Senior Utility Credit, the customer must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 65 years old,
- Live at the address listed on the application for water/sewer service,
- Have the water and sewer bill in their name,
- Have made application and are eligible for either the Senior Tax Freeze Program, or the Senior Tax Deduction of \$250,
- Have a new AMI meter.

Utility Bill Payment Plan.

If a customer believes there will be difficulty in making a utility payment they may notify the Township to see if they can be put on a non-interest payment plan. To participate, the customer must meet and acknowledge the following terms:

- Payment plans can be made over a period of time ~~for bills between July to May~~ up until one month prior to the municipal tax sale date,
- Any outstanding balance past one month prior to the municipal tax sale date ~~as of May~~ will be subject to the annual Tax Sale in ~~June~~,
- To remain on a payment plan, you must remain current with installment payments and future utility bill charges and make all payments on time. Failure to do so will result in a default of the payment agreement and interest shall begin to accrue on the account,
- Live at the address listed on the application,
- Have the water and sewer bill in your name, and
- Have a new AMI meter.

Courtesy Leak Adjustment.

Sometimes broken or damaged plumbing fixtures, irrigation equipment or pipes can cause unintentional water loss. If that happens, a customer may be eligible for a Courtesy Leak Adjustment to their account. If an adjustment is approved by the water department, all wasted water above normal consumption, for the same monthly period for the year before, will be **billed at the lowest tier possible**. In addition to an administrative tier adjustment, customers may also make an appeal to the governing body who has the authority to waive a charged on a utility account be eligible to receive a one-time sewer adjustment for .

- Leak Adjustments will be issued in the form of a credit to the account, not a refund.
- The credit will appear on the bill following approval.
- The continuous or abnormal flow on the account must have stopped.
- ~~Customers must submit a Leak Adjustment Application.~~
- Customers must have a new AMI meter.
- Leak Adjustments are not made due to an account being in arrears.
- ~~Adjustments must meet the following criteria 1/5/150/500:~~

~~1 Year~~ The customer must be the owner of the property, have the account in their name and have been residing in the home as their primary residence for a minimum of one year.

~~5 Years~~ Customers are eligible for a leak adjustment once every five years.

~~150%~~ The monthly bill must be at least 150% of the normal billing for that time period from the previous year, after considering the annual consumption rate differential.

Ex. — Consumption for 30 day period in September of 2019 = \$75.00

— Bill for 30 day consumption period in September of 2020 = \$150.00

— \$150.00 2020 Bill — \$76.50(at 2020 Rate) = \$73.50 Credit

~~\$500~~ Administrative adjustments are capped at \$500 and shall be authorized through 12/31/2020, at such time when Meter Replacement Program shall be substantially complete. Requests for adjustments over \$500 must be presented to the Mayor and Council for governing body consideration and approval.

No adjustments will be granted in the following situations:

- High water use caused by seasonal activities such as watering of sod, gardening, refilling or topping off swimming pools or whirlpools, washing vehicles, etc.
- When leak continues for three (3) or more months, there will be no adjustment for the third or subsequent months.

§ 352-22 Water rates and fees; bulk water. (amended Section A, B, C)

- A. Consumption rates from 2016 through 2019 consisted of a stepped billing approach based on a customer's overall quarterly consumption. Customers were charged one of three rates, established based on overall quarterly consumption, per every 748 gallons (previous per 100 cubic square feet) of water.

For meter readings after July 1, 2020, the charge for new meters installed are calculated upon the rate established per gallon of metered water consumption, based upon the schedule set forth below on a monthly basis. In instances where water meters do not measure flow in gallons, the following conversion is used to estimate water consumption: 1 cubic foot = 7.48 gallons.

Rate changes provided below go into effect based upon the bill period date, not when the meter was last read or consumption used.

Example: July 1, 2020 Supporting Formula for 0-3,000 gallons:
1 Cubic foot is equal to 7.48 US fluid gallons
Quarterly Rate is billed per 100 Gallons
2020 Rate \$2.92842 ÷ 748 conversion = \$.003915 per Gallon

Monthly Water Rates Based on Water Consumption Rate per 748 Gallons			
Rate Period	0 to 3,000 Gal	3,001 to 9,000 Gal	More than 9,001 Gal
July 1, 2020	\$2.928	\$5.270	\$5.856
<u>January 1, 2022</u>	<u>\$3.031</u>	<u>\$5.455</u>	<u>\$6.061</u>
<u>July 1, 2022</u>	<u>\$3.137</u>	<u>\$5.646</u>	<u>\$6.273</u>
<u>July 1, 2023</u>	<u>\$3.247</u>	<u>\$5.843</u>	<u>\$6.493</u>

Monthly Rates Based on Water Consumption Range Rate per 1 Gallon (Gal)			
Effective date	0 to 3,000 Gal	3,001 to 9,000 Gal	More than 9,001 Gal
July 1, 2020	\$0.003915	\$0.007046	\$0.007829
July 1, 2021	\$0.004052	\$0.007293	\$0.008103
<u>January 1, 2022</u>	<u>\$0.004052</u>	<u>\$0.007293</u>	<u>\$0.008103</u>
<u>July 1, 2022</u>	<u>\$0.004194</u>	<u>\$0.007548</u>	<u>\$0.008387</u>
<u>July 1, 2023</u>	<u>\$0.004341</u>	<u>\$0.007812</u>	<u>\$0.008680</u>

B. The Monthly rate for fire service lines will be \$5.00 per month as follows:

<u>Service Pipe Diameter in Inches</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>
2"	\$ 10
3"	\$ 20
4"	\$ 40
6"	\$ 80
8"	\$150
10"	\$200
12"	\$300

C. ~~A second meter connected in accordance with 352-18C of this chapter shall be billed monthly based on actual water usage recorded by that meter. The rate shall be the same as specified in Subsection A of this section.~~

Additional meters for irrigation or fire service at a property connected in accordance with this chapter shall be billed monthly based on actual water usage recorded by that meter. The rate shall be the same as specified in Subsection A of this section.

§ 352-25. Estimated charges where meters fail to transmit data.

If a meter fails to transmit data, the consumption will be charged at the rate of the average daily consumption based on account history. If following an estimated bill, the customer is billed at a higher Tier Rate in the subsequent billing period based on an actual read, the customer may request their account be adjusted for consumption that would have be eligible at a lower Tier Rate, had it been billed during the estimated period. The adjustment will appear as a credit on the account following review and approval.

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Ordinance amending Police Department Line of Authority of the Township of North Brunswick”.

Approved Yes No

Rejected Yes No

Francis “Mac” Womack III, Mayor
Township of North Brunswick

Reconsidered by Council _____

Override Vote Yes No

Council President

Clerk, Township of North Brunswick

ROLL CALL

First Reading _____

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	NOTES
MEHTA				
LOPEZ				
GUADAGNINO				
ANDREWS				
DAVIS				
SOCIO				
MAYOR WOMACK				

Second Reading _____

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	NOTES
MEHTA				
LOPEZ				
GUADAGNINO				
ANDREWS				
DAVIS				
SOCIO				
MAYOR WOMACK				