

**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, E)

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 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 as a charge against the utility account any installation cost incurred by the municipality to the engage a third party contractor to provide installation services.

Schedule of New Water Meter Fees	Meter Installation Fees	Pit-Set Meter Fees
5/8" - 3/4"	\$300.00 \$350.00	\$400.00 \$450.00
1"	\$400.00 \$450.00	\$500.00 \$600.00
1 1/2"	\$600.00 \$650.00	\$900.00 \$1,000.00
2"	\$700.00 \$750.00	\$1,000.00 \$1,500.00

- (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 (Veolia).

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
0.62	—\$3.00 \$3.50	\$ —6.00 \$7.00
0.7	\$3.00 \$3.50	\$ —6.00 \$7.00
1"	————\$4.00 \$4.50	\$ —7.00 \$8.00
1.5"	————\$7.00 \$7.50	\$ —9.00 \$11.00
2"	————\$13.00 \$14.00	\$ —16.00 \$20.00
3"	————\$32.00 \$33.00	\$ —35.00 \$38.00
4"	\$ —45.00 \$47.00	\$ —50.00 \$55.00
6"	\$ —57.00 \$60.00	\$ —63.00 \$70.00
8"	\$ —92.00 \$95.00	\$ 100.00 \$110.00
10"	\$ 125.00 \$130.00	\$ 135.00 \$145.00

F. 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 Sections)

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 order 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). Business and Commercial irrigation and fire service lines shall be required to have a meter.
- C. The Township will assess a ~~\$25.00~~ \$30.00 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.
- D. The Township will assess a \$30.00 monthly charge for customers that have a manual meter not connected to the Neptune AMI system which requires a technician to obtain consumption.

§ 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.

§ 352-22 Water rates and fees; bulk water. (amended Sections)

- 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
2024 Rate \$3.344 ÷ 748 conversion = \$.004471 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
January 1, 2022	\$3.031	\$5.455	\$6.061
July 1, 2022	\$3.137	\$5.646	\$6.273
July 1, 2023	\$3.247	\$5.843	\$6.493
<u>July 1, 2024</u>	<u>\$3.344</u>	<u>\$6.018</u>	<u>\$6.688</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
January 1, 2022	\$0.004052	\$0.007293	\$0.008103
July 1, 2022	\$0.004194	\$0.007548	\$0.008387
July 1, 2023	\$0.004341	\$0.007812	\$0.008680
<u>July 1, 2024</u>	<u>\$0.004471</u>	<u>\$0.008045</u>	<u>\$0.008941</u>

B. The Monthly rate for fire service lines will be ~~\$5.00~~ 10.00 per month.

C. 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.

D. Connection fees. The following connection fees shall be collected at the time the construction permit is issued:

(1) Residential properties. The applicant shall pay a connection charge of ~~\$1,800~~ \$2,100 at the time of the application for each service connection to the Utility water system.

(2) Commercial and industrial properties. Connection fees on connections made by owners of commercial and industrial properties shall be based on the schedule of fees as set forth below for each building unit connected based on the size of connection:

Service Pipe Diameter in Inches	Rate
1	\$1,800 \$2,200
1 1/2	\$3,500 \$6,000
2	\$10,000 \$15,000
3	\$15,000 \$25,000

Service Pipe Diameter in Inches	Rate
4	\$25,000 \$50,000
6	\$35,000 \$80,000
8	\$55,000 \$100,000
10	\$70,000 \$150,000
12	\$90,000 \$200,000

- E. Under the Township Green initiative, each account that is signed up to receive monthly billing electronically and also is signed up within the meter reporting system (currently Watersmart), shall receive a \$3.00 month credit. The \$3.00 credit shall be capped per account. To be eligible, no hard copy shall be mailed, including copies under a landlord/tenant agreement.
- F. Should a meter be damaged, show evidence of being tampered with or disconnected, an evaluation fee of \$1,000.00 for review of the account shall be assessed to the property owner.
- G. Once a meter is reconnected, water loss charges will be calculated based on the measured volume of lost water at the current rate per gallon and shall be assessed to the property owner under the account billing.

§ 352-7 Ownership and maintenance of water service lines, water pipes and fixtures.

- A. All persons owning property with water service shall own and be responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the water service lines from the water main to the water meter and downstream of the water meter. All maintenance, repair, and replacement of the water service lines shall be done only by a Township pre-approved contractor. A list of approved contractors can be obtained by contacting the water dept. A water service lines may be for domestic water service , fire service or combined domestic water and fire service. The water service lines includes the water main tap, corporation and tapping valves, pipe, curb valves and valve boxes, valve upstream of the meter, valve downstream of the meter, test tee (if required), reduced-pressure zone backflow preventer and its isolation valves (if required), meter pit (if approved), check valve (if required), fire line detector check (fire service , as required), and all other ancillary equipment. The Utility owns and shall repair and replace the water meter, strainer (if required), transmitter, touchpad, meter-to-touchpad wire, and tamper security devices and other associated equipment. The owner is responsible for keeping the Utility-owned equipment accessible, unobstructed, clean and protected from damage. If the owner tampers with or otherwise causes or allows to be caused damage to the Utility-owned equipment, the Utility shall repair or replace the damaged equipment and charge the owner for same.

- B. The utility department may find it necessary to install a meter pit and Utility-owned meter on the water service lines. All other fixtures, except for the water meter equipment, shall remain the responsibility of the property owner.
- C. ~~The Township of North Brunswick for the last several years under an executive pilot program has taken on the responsibility of making repairs from the water main up to and including the curb box. As stated in Subsection A, these repairs are and have always been the responsibility of the property owner. The pilot program is coming to ending and the Township will cease from making any repairs on the service lines effective September 1, 2020.~~

In cases of water leaks found on the service lines, the Township will notify the property owner and inform them of the leak and that they shall have 21 days from the date of the notification to make the repair.

The municipal water department will measure the volume of water lost beginning with the date of notice using standard procedures and equipment. Water loss charges will be calculated based on the measured volume of lost water at the current rate per gallon.

All repairs will be made by a licensed plumber and a permit will be required by the Building Department. In cases of major leaks that would cause damage to roadways, the water system or the general public, the Township will make the repair and assess and invoice the property owner accordingly which shall be collectable in the same manner as taxes. Property owners are liable for any damages resulting from leaks or breaks in their service lines.

Failure to repair a damaged service line within the stipulated time may result in fines and penalties as determined by the municipal water department.

If repairs are not completed within the specified period, the municipal water department may undertake the repairs and bill the property owner for the costs incurred.

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Ordinance amending “Chapter 352 Water Utility” of the code of the Township of North Brunswick.

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

 Lisa Russo
 Clerk, Township of North Brunswick

ROLL CALL

First Reading _____

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

Second Reading _____

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