

**BARTON HILLS VILLAGE  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**ORDINANCE NO. 62**

*AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF BARTON HILLS VILLAGE TO ADDRESS WATER  
METERS AND WATER SERVICE LINES BY ADDING A NEW SECTION TO CHAPTER 9,  
WHICH NEW SECTION SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS SECTION 1:98 OF CHAPTER 9 OF TITLE I  
OF THE CODE*

BARTON HILLS VILLAGE ORDAINS THAT THE BARTON HILLS VILLAGE CODE BE AMENDED BY ADDING SECTION 1:98 TO TITLE I, CHAPTER 9, AS FOLLOWS:

**1:98 – Water Meters and Service Lines**

1. *Generally.* All premises served by the Village water supply system shall be metered, and, when technically practical, all water meters shall be equipped with automatic remote reading devices. All water meters shall be the property of the Village. No person except a Village employee or authorized Village contractor shall break or injure the seal or change the location of, alter, or interfere in any way with any water meter. Failure to allow installation or replacement of a water meter equipped with automatic remote reading device is a violation of this ordinance and may result in the discontinuance of water service and the imposition of surcharges and fines.

2. *Access to meters.*

(a) Village staff and authorized Village contractors shall at all reasonable hours have the right to enter the premises that are served by the Village water supply system with owner or occupant approval or after obtaining an administrative search warrant from a court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of installing, reading, testing, maintaining, removing, replacing, or inspecting a meter. No person shall hinder, obstruct, or interfere with such person in the lawful discharge of his or her duties in relation to the care and maintenance of such water meter.

(b) When a premise is not equipped with a device that allows automatic or remote reading of a meter, or such device has become inoperative for any

reason, a direct reading shall be obtained by Village staff or its contractor at a minimum of once annually.

(c) The Village shall have the right to assess a surcharge and to discontinue the supply of water to any premises, pursuant to prior notice, where Village staff or an authorized Village contractor is not able to install, repair, maintain, test, inspect, or replace a meter or obtain an annual direct reading in accordance with this section. Any such surcharge shall reflect the actual costs incurred by the Village in enforcing compliance with these provisions.

3. *Reimbursement for damage.* Any damage that a meter may sustain resulting from carelessness of the owner, agent, or tenant or from neglect or intentional acts of any of them, to properly secure and protect the meter as well as any damage that may result from frost, hot water, or steam backing from a boiler, shall be paid by the owner of the property to the Village on presentation of a bill therefore. Nonpayment of the bill may result in discontinuance of water service until all charges have been paid to the Village.

4. *Meter failure.* If any meter shall fail to register properly, the Village shall estimate the consumption on the basis of former consumption and bill accordingly.

5. *Inaccurate meters.* A customer may request that the meter be tested. If the meter is found defective, a new meter will be installed and no charge will be made. If the meter is found to be accurate, the customer will be charged the cost of the meter replacement. The customer may request third party testing of the meter at the customer's expense.

6. *Responsibility to maintain service lines in good condition; discontinuing water services.* The owner of a property served by the Village water supply system is responsible for maintaining the water service line that serves the property in good condition. The Village may discontinue water service to any property where there is evidence that the water service line is not in good condition.

7. *Surcharge for unauthorized water flow.* If a violation of any provision of this chapter results in unauthorized flow detected by a detector check meter or evidenced by a tampered bypass valve or plumbing, the charge for such unauthorized water flow shall be calculated on the basis of full flow through the bypass and the bypassed plumbing at the provided service pressure for the full

duration of time estimated by the Village that the bypass violation condition existed. The duration of the violation may be calculated to include all time during the billing period when the flow detection was determined to have occurred or all time since the last physical inspection of the metering system, up to a maximum of 3 years.

Adopted: August 12, 2024

Effective: August \_\_, 2024

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Robert Hensinger, Clerk

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Howard Holmes II, President