

SECTION 18 BILLING, PAYMENTS, DELINQUENCIES, Etc.

18.1 Rendering of Bills for Water & Sewer Service

A single bill for water and sewer services will be rendered quarterly to each customer. The bill will be printed the first of the month and rendered as soon as thereafter as practicable.

Water charges will be based on the quarterly readings read prior to the printing of the bill. If the meter cannot be read, the minimum charge will apply and the customer's meter card will be charged with 10,000 gallon usage.

Sewer and garbage disposal charges are billed in advance for the quarter beginning with the billing date.

18.2 Payment Schedule

If a bill is not paid within thirty (30) days of the date of billing, the interest rate shall be the maximum amount allowed by statute.

In case of a disputed bill terminating substantially in favor of the customer, the payment is due within ten (10) days of the termination of the dispute.

18.3 Delinquent Accounts

Any bill unpaid after thirty (30) days of presentation shall be classified as delinquent. Any bill unpaid after forty-four (44) days of presentation shall be subject to discontinuance of service after not less than five (5) days of written notice.

All requests to shut-off the service of a delinquent customer shall be over the signature of the Superintendent.

If service is discontinued for nonpayment of the account, it will not be restored until the turn-on fee (payable in cash) plus all unpaid charges are paid or satisfactory arrangements have been made for payment. (See Schedule 5).

If the check used as payment to prevent shut-off of service is returned by the bank for insufficient funds, a processing fee will be charged against the account and the service will be discontinued immediately without further notice. (See Schedule 3).

Any unpaid balance of service charges and interest hereon shall be a lien against the property and action shall be initiated pursuant to the procedures specified under N.J.S.A. 40:14B-32.

Notice of delinquent charges shall be given annually to the Tax Collector of Mantua Township thirty (30) days prior to the Township posting notice of publishing all delinquent taxes.

18.4 Discontinuance of Service

Service may, at the sole discretion of the Authority, be discontinued for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Misrepresentation in application.
- (b) Willful waste of water through improper or imperfect pipes.
- (c) Failure to comply with restrictions imposed pursuant to Section 19 - Reserve Supply.
- (d) Use of water for any other property or purpose than that described in the application.
- (e) Molesting any service pipe, meter, curb stopcock or seals, or any other appliance of the Authority.
- (f) Vacancy in excess of thirty (30) days (water only).
- (g) Nonpayment of any charge occurring under the application.
- (h) Refusal of reasonable access to the property for purposes of inspecting, reading, repairing or removing meters.
- (i) Making or refusing to sever any cross connection between a pipe or fixture carrying water furnished by the Authority and a pipe or fixture carrying water from any other source.
- (j) Nonpayment of bills within time prescribed.
- (k) Violation of any rules of the Authority.

18.5 Renewal Service

Service will be renewed when the conditions under which such service was disconnected are corrected and upon payment of all accrued charges provided in the schedule of rates or rules of the Authority.

18.6 Abatement

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18.7 Deposits

Deposits may be required from any customer who becomes habitually delinquent. Amount of deposit shall be equal to his average quarterly bill.

Any customer having paid a deposit shall pay bills for water and sewer service as rendered, in accordance with the rules of the Authority. The deposit shall not be considered as payment on account of a bill during the time the customer is receiving service.

Deposits shall be returned to the depositor when he shall have paid undisputed bills for service for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months.

Deposits shall be deposited in an interest-bearing account and the interest shall also be returned to the depositor upon the conclusion of the twelve (12) months.

18.8 Continuing Obligation to Pay Service Charge

Upon connection of an improved and usable property to a sewer, the obligation to pay the minimal annual service charge continues despite the failure to occupy the property or to use the sewer facilities, so long as the building or structure on the property is still available for use and the sewer facilities remain available.