

SMITHFIELD WATER SUPPLY BOARD

RATES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

**ADOPTED BY THE SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
IN THEIR CAPACITY AS THE
SMITHFIELD WATER SUPPLY BOARD**

December 14, 1999 as Amended,
April 26, 2005 et seq.
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B. JAMES SUZMAN, WATER COMMISSIONER
(Public Works Director)

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SMITHFIELD WATER SUPPLY BOARD GOALS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & SYSTEM SUMMARY

A Water Supply Commission for the Town of Smithfield was authorized and established by Chapter 1676, 1930 Public Laws of Rhode Island, charged with the responsibility to make “an accurate and comprehensive study of the water supply of the Town of Smithfield”. Subsequent legislation delineated the service area of the Smithfield Water Supply Board (SWSB).

In 1963-64, the Longview Pump Station (fed by the Providence Water Supply Board), and a twelve inch diameter cast iron transmission line in Smithfield Road (N. Providence) was constructed. This transmission line traverses en route, along Ridge Road (Smithfield) to the Rocky Hill one million gallon storage tank. Today, the SWSB includes approximately sixty thousand feet of transmission and distribution water mains of varying materials and sizes. In addition to the Rocky Hill Storage Tank, the Island Woods four million gallon storage tank was put into service in 1993.

The system’s 1,200 residential and industrial metered accounts serve approximately 8,900 persons. Of these, an estimated one-third reside in the Town of North Providence. System capacity is approximately 1.8 million gallons per day; approximately 250,000 to 300,000 gallons per day are delivered to North Providence users. Also, the system delivers about 40,000 gallons per day to users in the East Smithfield Water District.

As part of the US EPA Superfund project, completed in 1997, there exists an additional 20,000 feet of twelve inch transmission line in Log Road and adjacent roadways, along with a 300,000 gallon storage tank on Burlingame Road. Also, this project included the construction of two new booster pumping stations (Limerock Rd., Log Rd.) and appurtenances as well as the complete retrofitting of the existing Longview Pump Station.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This publication gives general guidelines for consumers with regard to their general obligations to the Smithfield Water Supply Board.

Main Office and Hours

The main office of the Smithfield Water Supply Board (hereinafter sometimes referred to as “the Board” or SWSB), is located at 3 Spragueville Road, Smithfield, RI 02917. Office hours daily, except weekends and holidays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Information, Inquiries, and Complaints

Any information about water services, rates, rules, etc., may be had by calling 233-1034. Complaints of a minor nature may be made by phone. Major complaints should be made in writing and addressed to the Smithfield Water Supply Board, 64 Farnum Pike, Esmond, RI 02917. All inquiries and complaints will receive careful consideration.

Emergency Calls

The department maintains emergency service twenty-four (24) hours a day, including Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. Any emergency may be reported day or night by calling 231-2500.

Servicemen, Inspectors and Meter Readers

Do not allow any person claiming to be an employee of this Board to enter your premises unless he or she can show proper identification. Authorized employees will possess official identification issued by the SWSB. Any impostor should be reported at once.

THE SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE SMITHFIELD WATER SUPPLY BOARD, DECEMBER 14, 1999, HEREBY MOVES the following rules and regulations and all subsequent changes, amendments and additions thereto, shall constitute a part of the contract with every person, corporation and property owner supplied with water from the Board. Every person, corporation and property owner using such supply shall be considered as consenting to be bound thereby. Copies will be made available upon payment of reasonable costs, and all persons are requested to read the rules carefully because failure to know the rules and regulations will not excuse anyone from the consequences of neglect of such rules and regulations.

SECTION 1

1.0 RATES AND SURCHARGES

The Board supplies water to all premises through a meter only, and at the following rates, which were adopted and approved by the Board.

1.1 What your water rates pay for:

The following is a rate structure, which shall apply to water costs. The Board receives *no* tax revenues and must rely on rate revenues to cover operational expenses. Rate payer money is also used to pay the debt service (interest and principal) on revenue bonds when applicable, and adequately maintain and replace facilities as needed. Debt service on revenue bonds is the repayment of loans used to acquire water system improvements. Upon our request, private consultants examine our operational expenses and repaying of revenue to determine our water rates. The Board is also audited every year by an outside accounting firm.

Operational expenses include day to day expenses for operating and maintaining the water system. Improvements to facilities provide money for keeping up with increasing demand by expanding the facilities and replacing outdated and worn equipment.

Rate & Surcharge Structure

1.1.1 The 3-tiers retail water rates for consumption shall be \$ 2.30, \$2.70, \$3.10 per 1,000 gallons usage *Note:* Since the retail water rate is based in part on the wholesale water rate of the Providence Water Supply Board, increases in the wholesale rate may be passed along to retail customers.

1.1.2 There shall be an annual service charge for all customers. This charge covers basic costs of providing service such as meter reading, system maintenance, and billing. The service charge is based upon the size of the customer's meter and is not related to the quantity of the water used. The annual service charges shall be as follows:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Annual Charge</u>
• 5/8" to 1"	\$ 40.00
• 1 1/2"	\$ 80.00
• 2"	\$ 120.00
• 3"	\$ 250.00
• 4"	\$ 400.00
• 6"	\$ 750.00
• 8"	\$ 1,300.00
• 10"	\$ 1,750.00

1.1.3 There shall be a surcharge of \$ 0.259 per 100 gallons usage for the *RI State Water Fund*. This surcharge, established pursuant to RI General Laws 46-15.3, is to protect the quality of public water supplies and provide funding for water projects administered and controlled by the State of RI. Customers who are 65 years or older, purchasing water for personal consumption, *and* that live in a single family residence are *exempt* from paying this surcharge. Customers eligible for exemption may request an application from the Board.

1.1.4 There shall be a surcharge of \$ 1.10 per connection for the RI Department of Health pursuant to their regulations, section 2C(2.).

1.1.5 There shall be sales tax to commercial customers.

1.2 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

The Board is divided into two sections for meter reading and billing purposes. The Board is currently in the process of phasing out annual billing for residential customers. All customers will be billed semi-annually for easier management of water bills for both customer and the utility.

Section 1: Town of North Providence, Ridge Rd., Douglas Pike, George Washington Highway & its intersecting streets;

Section 2 : Highview-Hilldale plat; Laphams plat; Log, Bayberry, & Burlingame Roads; Wionkheige Estates (Latham Farm Rd area), Farnum Pike and intersecting streets including Lanrex Industrial Park.

1.3 INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Large user(as defined by the Board) Industrial and Commercial businesses are read and billed monthly. Others are read and billed on the residential cycle.

1.4 SPECIAL CHARGES

In certain circumstances, the Board may require improvements (e.g.. booster pumps, system looping, pumping stations, main extensions) to certain areas of the water system to ensure proper operation. Installation of these devices will result in additional charges that shall be borne by the customers that benefit from the improvements. These charges shall include costs related to installation, continuing use, including maintenance and future replacement costs.

1.4.1 Paramount Development Agreement:

There exists such an Agreement executed December 5, 1989 between the Town of Smithfield, Bryant College, and Paramount Development Assoc., Inc. “Substantial Users” as defined by this Agreement shall be subject to water district improvement fees.

1.5 HYDRANT RENTAL CHARGES

Hydrant Rental Charges for the supply and maintenance of fire hydrants to/in the Town of North Providence are billed annually on a calendar year basis. They shall be \$ 200.00 per year.

1.6 WHOLESALE RATE

The Board may, by Agreement, sell water to another water purveyor. The rate levied shall be five per cent (5%) over the wholesale water rate of the Providence Water Supply Board.

SECTION 2

2.0 WATER BILLS

2.1 Information Regarding Bills:

Bills are prepared by the Board and are filed at the Town Treasurer's Office for collection.

Requests for information regarding bills or notices should be made either personally or preferably by letter to the main office of the Board. Water bills are rendered to the owner of the property supplied. Large industrial, manufacturing and commercial accounts are billed monthly; and, domestic accounts are currently billed annually, to be billed semi-annually.

2.2 Property Owners are Responsible for Water Bills:

To insure proper rendering of bills, the property owner shall notify the office of the Board of any changes in the mailing address. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve the property owner from the obligation of its payment or the payment of additional interest.

2.3 Responsibility for Water Charges:

Customers and property owners shall be responsible for all charges occurring for water service until written notice has been given to the Board Office by the owner of the property served to discontinue the service or (in case of change in ownership of the premises) until notice has been given the Board Office of the change of ownership of the premises served and the new owner has filed with the Board a written application for transfer of water service. A final meter reading, *inside the subject property*, shall be done by the Board. New owners using water at their premises without filing the proper application for water service shall be

(1) liable and responsible for all water service provided and water used during their ownership of the premises, (2) subject to the penalties provided by law for the unauthorized use of water. In such cases, the Board reserves the right to discontinue water services to any property for which the recorded owner has not filed an application for water service. Applicants for water services at all premises shall become responsible for all outstanding charges for water theretofore furnished to said premises. See Section 39-15-12 of the RI General Laws.

The owner of property is ultimately responsible for the costs attendant to water usage even though there are multiple downstream meters on a single parcel of property. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to notify the property owner when a bill is thirty (30) days in arrears.

2.4 Payment:

All water bills are payable by mail or at the Town Treasurer's Office and must be paid within thirty (30) days from the billing date marked on the bill.

2.4.1 Liens and Charges:

Within ninety (90) days after payment is due and unpaid, the Board is authorized and empowered to file a lien against the title to property which has received district service and which property is owned by a customer of the Board. If the lien is filed, the customer shall be liable for an additional one hundred (\$100.00) dollar charge for such filing and an additional fifty (\$50.00) dollar charge for removal of the lien.

If the customer does not own the property that receives the water service, the Board is authorized and empowered to terminate

service after giving written notice of its intention to terminate service.

2.4.2 Interest on Unpaid Bills and Liens:

If bills remain unpaid for thirty (30) days after they are rendered, the Board shall assess interest on the delinquent payments at a rate of not more than twelve (12%) percent per annum on the charges for gallons of water already used by the owner or occupant of the house, building, tenant, or estate. The Board is authorized to file a lien for unpaid water usage.

2.5 Termination of Service:

If bills remain unpaid for ninety (90) days after they are rendered, the Board may terminate water service to the property. Termination of service shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the State of Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers. If service is terminated, a \$25.00 turn-on fee shall be assessed before the service is turned on.

2.5.1 Customer Bankruptcy:

The Board has adopted a policy prohibiting it from discriminating against a customer who has petitioned the Bankruptcy Court for protection against creditors. However, the bankrupt must within twenty (20) days after filing such petition give the Board adequate assurance of payment for future water service. The Board shall consider whatever security will protect the Board for future water use. If the Board and the customer cannot come to agreement as to adequate assurance of payment, the customer shall petition the court for further relief.

2.6 Courtesy Notices:

It is the intention of the Board to send courtesy notices of excessive increased consumption or delinquency in payment of bills, but failure to do this does not relieve the customer of his or her responsibility to repair leaky fixtures or pay water charges promptly.

SECTION 3

3.0 METERS

3.1 All Water Metered:

All water from the Board will be supplied and billed through one primary meter for each separate service. Commercial properties will be billed through one primary meter. All water passing through such meters will be billed to the owner of the property supplied, as the same appears in the records of the Board, whether the water is used or wasted. Customers are advised to read their meters frequently in order to prevent leaks or waste, which if detected, will eliminate large water bills.

3.2 Ownership of Meters:

Meters, except as otherwise provided in Sections 6 and 8, are installed by the Board at the expense of the property owner and become his/her property when paid for in full. The Board reserves the right to designate the size and type of meter to be installed on any service.

3.3 Location of Meters:

The property owner shall furnish a proper place for the meter, which is to be installed in a horizontal position immediately after the point of entry of the service pipe through the building wall. The meter shall be located in the building nearest to the street line, provided that this building is not more than one hundred (100) feet from the curb line, in which case the meter shall be installed just inside the property line in a suitable housing or water pit approved or supplied by the Board, provided and maintained at the expense of the property owner.

3.4 Accessibility:

Meters must be easily accessible at all times so that they may be examined and read by employees of the Board. They must not be exposed to danger from frost or contamination.

3.5 By Whom Set:

The installation, repair and disconnection of all meters is to be performed by employees of the Board only, except as hereinafter provided.

3.6 Damaged Meters or Meter Settings:

In case of breakage, stoppage or other irregularity or if the meters are damaged by frost, hot water, or external causes, either by carelessness or neglect by the owner or occupant of the premises or his/her agents, the Board, except as hereinafter provided, shall repair or replace the meter and setting and the owner must reimburse the Board for all cost of repairs or replacement, including labor. In case of breakage, stoppage or any other irregularity in the meter, the property owner is to notify the Board immediately.

3.7 Remote Reading Water Meters:

All newly installed residential meters shall be the Remote Reading type equipped with receptacles for remote reading from the outside. The outside receptacle shall be securely attached to the exterior of the house or building and connected to the encoder register by a multiple cable conductor. The cost of the entire assembly consisting of the register, outside receptacle and multiple cable conductors shall be included in the price of the meter. The applicant shall arrange to install the remote receptacle and the multiple cable conductors in a location approved by the Board. Only the employees of the Board shall perform actual connections of the cable to the register and the remote receptacle.

On an existing meter installation the property owner shall be required, upon written notice from the Board, to purchase a complete new Remote Reading Meter Assembly from the Board to replace the register on their present meter or their present meter assembly. This will include the encoder type of register, the outside receptacle and the multiple cable conductors if feasible. The inside reader will be used to determine the amount of water use and the property owner will be responsible for any balance due. If the outside reader is not compatible with the inside encoder register, the property owner shall be responsible for replacing the meter also. The employees of the Board shall make the installation of all necessary components for the property owner.

The occupant, owner, or his/her agents shall be responsible for the protection of all the components of the remote reading water meters and shall be subject to the stipulations as set forth in that paragraph entitled, "Damaged Meters or Meter Settings".

3.8 Meter Testing:

Every water meter is carefully tested before it is first installed and also before it is reset after being removed for repairs or other purposes. Periodic tests of each meter will also be made as often as the Board may deem necessary. Should a property owner at any time question the accuracy of the meter on his/her service, it may be tested (preferably in his/her presence) after the Board has received the request. Should the test show that the meter has been over-registering in excess of two (2%) percent, the owner will not be charged for the test, but the cost to repair or replace the meter shall be borne by the owner. If the test is within this limit (2%), the cost of the test will be borne by the owner.

3.8.1 Commercial and Industrial Type Meters:

Commercial and Industrial type meters shall be tested as determined by the Board based upon consumption history. Such tests shall be paid for by the property owner.

3.8.2 Adjustments:

If the testing of a meter as hereinbefore provided shows that it fails to register correctly within two (2%) percent, the charge to the consumer shall be adjusted accordingly as the registration varies from one hundred (100%) percent and such adjustment shall apply to the current period only, unless it is apparent to the Board that previous periods of consumption have also been affected by the same error.

3.9 Repairs to Large Meters:

At the written request of the Board, property owners shall return the meters two (2) inches or larger in diameter to the factory or Board approved personnel for necessary and complete repairs. If

the owner does not take action within fifteen (15) days, the Board shall remove the meter for repair. If the owner takes the action, he/she shall notify the Board when the meter will be removed for repairs, and will also notify the factory or Board approved personnel to forward directly to the Board a certified copy of the test on the meter before repairs are made, and another certified copy of the test after completing repairs. All expenses covering the repairs are to be borne by the property owner.

3.10 Billing Non-Registering Meters:

In case a meter fails to register or has been removed for repairs, testing or other purposes during the billing period, the bill shall be issued, based on the average daily rate of consumption as shown by the meter after it has been returned to service and is in proper working order. If the meter has not been returned to service, the bill shall be issued based on the average daily rate of consumption for the previous three (3) year period.

3.11 Unserviceable Meters or Outside Registers:

The Board reserves the right at all times to remove, test, repair and replace any meter or outside register, and if such meter or outside register is found to be economically unserviceable, require another meter to be substituted in its place at the expense of the property owner.

3.12 Tampering or Defacing Meters and Seals:

The Board shall press charges in accordance with Section 11-6 of the RI General Laws, against every person who shall tamper or deface a meter to prevent the proper registration of the water consumed by altering the register index or otherwise, or for the breaking of any seal placed by the Board for the protection of any meter, valve or fitting.

3.13 Spot Check of Meters:

The Board reserves the right to have their representative spot check any meter at any time during the course of a working day.

3.14 Meter Replacement Program:

In conformance with Rhode Island state law, meters generally have a ten year life expectancy for efficiency and accuracy. The Board has a residential meter replacement program, which may require participation(monetary) by owners. For commercial and industrial type large meters, the replacement cost shall be borne by the owner.

SECTION 4

4.0 SERVICE PIPES

4.1 Locations and Easements:

Water mains shall be installed in public roads and not in private easements. The Board may consider exceptions to this rule as determined necessary.

4.2 Application for Service Pipes:

An application for the installation of new services shall be made, and signed, by the owner of the property or his/her authorized agent at the offices of the Board. Applications for service must state fully and truthfully the purposes for which the water is to be used, together with the proper description of the property (Plat and Lot Number), the official name of the town street and the number of the premises to be supplied.

4.2.1 Applications to be Approved by Board:

The Board shall review all applications for service and may approve them based upon the totality of circumstances. The Board may require drawings and plans as outlined in Section 6.

4.3 Connection/Main Charges for Service Pipes:

Service pipes are installed by the Board, or a Board approved contractor, from the distribution main in the street to the curb stop. The curb stop shall be located as specified by the Board.

If installed by the Board, the cost of installation shall be at the prevailing rate for labor and materials as determined by the Board. In addition, the Service Pipe/Main Charge is a connection charge based upon pipe size and is as follows:

<u>Pipe Size</u>	<u>Charge</u>
• 3/4” to 1”	\$ 1500.00
• 1 1/2”	\$ 1500.00
• 2”	\$ 3000.00
• 4”	\$ 6000.00
• 6”	\$ 9000.00
• 8”	\$ 9,500.00
• 10”	\$10,000.00
• 12”	\$12,000.00

All charges shall be paid for in advance of installation.

4.4 Ownership and Purpose of Service Pipe:

The service pipe from the distribution main to the curb stop is owned and maintained by the Board. The portion of the service

pipe beyond the curb stop is the property of the customer and is installed and maintained by the owner through a plumber licensed by the State of Rhode Island.

Service pipes for domestic use are for the purposes of supplying water for the domestic use of the property to which connection is made only and not for any other residence. No person shall cause or permit a physical connection to be made to any service pipe from any Board main.

4.5 New Service Pipe from Building to Distribution Main:

The service pipe from the curb to the building shall be laid by a licensed plumber and the installation completed for $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, 1 inch, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and 2 inch sizes. In service sizes of two (2") inches in diameter or larger, the Board, or a Board approved contractor, shall install the section from the street main to the curb first, and then the licensed plumber shall connect into the building.

The licensed plumber must lay his/her portion of the service in a straight line from the curb to inside the building and at a right angle to the street line. The service pipe shall be inspected and approved by a representative of the Board before being covered.

Service pipes must have five (5) feet of approved cover material to avoid freezing.

4.6 Location:

The location where the service is to enter the property must be distinctly marked by the property owner and approved by the Board.

4.7 Material for Service Pipes:

All service pipes one (1”) inch in diameter to and including two (2”) inches in diameter shall be type “K” extra heavy, soft temper cold drawn, seamless, deoxidized copper tubing, having a minimum ultimate tensile strength of not less than 30,000 lbs. per square inch. Service pipes four (4”) inches through twelve (12”) inches in diameter shall be class 52 cement mortar lined ductile iron pipe AWWAC 151-71 or PVC pipe (AWWAC-900) as amended to date.

4.8 Inspection, Testing, and Location to Sanitary Sewer Line/Septic System:

All service pipes shall be installed in accordance with and as defined in the publication “10 State Standards” as adopted by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Service pipes shall be tested for water tightness in the presence of a representative of the Board before being covered/back-filled.

NO SERVICE PIPE SHALL BE LAID IN THE SAME TRENCH WITH A BUILDING DRAIN OR SEWER PIPE. NOR SHALL THE WATER PIPE BE CLOSER TO A SEWER THAN TEN (10) FEET AT ANY HORIZONTAL POINT IN AN AREA SERVED BY A PUBLIC SEWER SYSTEM. IN UNSEWERED AREAS, WATER SERVICE PIPE SHALL BE LAID AT A MINIMUM OF TEN (10) FEET FROM THE SEPTIC TANK AND A MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) FEET FROM A CESSPOOL SEEPAGE PIT, DISPOSAL TRENCH OR BED.

4.9 Main Shut-Off Valve:

On every new service pipe, immediately after its entry into the building, there shall be an angle ball valve meter stop supplied by

the Board. Existing service pipes not equipped with the above type of meter stop when renewed or replaced shall conform with the requirement for “New Service Pipes” and “Horizontal Meter Settings”.

4.10 Horizontal Meter Setting:

All small meters on new installations shall be set approximately six to eight inches (6” – 8”) above the floor, in a horizontal position, immediately after the angle meter stop and immediately after where the service pipe enters the building. Large meters may not be set directly on the floor, and current type meters shall have a straight length of pipe at least eight (8) times the pipe diameter before the meter. Small meter settings for ¾” and 1” meters shall be equipped with a double check valve as is provided by the Board. Check valves two (2”) or larger shall be supplied by the owner and approved by the Board.

Whenever it is necessary to renew or replace a meter or service pipe, the meter shall be reset to conform to the requirements for new installations.

4.11 Back Flow Preventative Valves:

The need to furnish reliable and inexpensive back-siphonage and backpressure protection for individual residences resulted in the debut of the residential double check valve. Protection of the main potable supply from household hazards such as home photograph chemicals, toxic insect and garden sprays, termite control pesticides used by exterminators, etc. reinforced a true need for such a device.

It is sized for 1” service lines and is installed immediately downstream of the water meter. The use of plastic check modules

and elimination of test cocks and gate valves keeps the cost reasonable while providing good, dependable protection.

All new residential buildings will be required to install a residential dual check device immediately downstream of the water meter. Installation of this residential dual check device on a retrofit basis on existing service lines may be instituted at a time and at a potential cost to the homeowner as deemed necessary by the Board. Such dual check installations shall be performed by the Board.

The owner must be aware that installation of a residential dual check valve results in a potential closed plumbing system within the residence. As such, provisions may have to be made by the owner to provide thermal expansion within this closed loop system: i.e., the installation of thermal expansion devices and or pressure relief valves in accordance with prevailing plumbing codes.

All commercial and industrial enterprises using water in the production process or in providing a service shall within one (1) year of the promulgation of these rules install back flow preventative valves to maintain the integrity of the Board system.

4.12 Tapping Mains:

No person, except an authorized representative of the Board, or a Board approved contractor, shall be allowed, under any circumstances, to tap the mains or distribution pipes, insert corporation stops therein, set or remove meters on service pipes, or interfere with water gates or curb stops. No person shall cause a physical connection to be made between the Board supply and any other water for commercial, domestic, sanitary, fire protection or boiler feed purposes or for any other intent whatsoever.

4.13 Repairs to Property Owner's Service Pipe and Fixtures:

Property owners must keep their own pipes and all water fixtures connected thereto in good repair and protected from frost at their own expense. In case of a break in that section of the service pipe between the curb stop and the meter, water shall be shut off by the Board, the property owner shall immediately obtain the services of a licensed plumber to make the necessary repairs. Failure to make repairs at once or to obtain the necessary permits covering these repairs shall be sufficient cause to shut off the supply. Restoration of service shall require payment of a twenty-five (\$25.00) dollar water turn-on fee.

4.14 Road Opening and Sidewalk Permits

No public road, sidewalk or place shall be opened for the installation of service pipes until an appropriate permit is obtained from the proper town or state agency.

SECTION 5

5.0 TEMPORARY SERVICES

5.1 For Building and Other Construction Purposes:

Contractors, Builders, etc., requiring water for construction purposes, shall make application for a temporary service, and will be subject to the same rules and regulations as apply to regular service installations. A meter and backflow protection will be installed on the temporary service, wherever possible, by the Board and the cost of the meter and backflow protection device, plus the cost of setting same, shall be borne by the applicant. Temporary services shall be subject to the charges described in Section 4, plus the cost of removing the service.

All charges, including the connection charge, cost of installing and/or removing the service, cost of setting and/or removing the meter, and setting the meter, shall be paid in advance. In addition, the applicant will be required to deposit a sufficient sum of money with the Board to cover the cost of the estimated amount of water to be used in conjunction with the work. If, at any time during the course of construction, the estimated amount of water covered by the deposit is below the actual consumption shown on the meter, the applicant will be required to deposit additional sums with the Board. After completion of the work, if the actual consumption registered on the meter is below the estimated amount, the Board will arrange to refund the difference.

In the event that it is not possible to install a meter on a temporary service, the Board will estimate the water usage for billing purposes.

SECTION 6

6.0 FIRE SUPPLIES

The Board may authorize the installation of a special fire service to private property for private fire protection purposes. Unmetered dual purpose lines shall be considered fire service supplies as well and subject to the regulations of this section.

Application must be made by the owner of the property or his/her authorized agent and will be subject to all provisions, including the Connection/Main charge described in Section 4 entitled “Service Pipes” as far as they apply to this type of service.

6.1 Drawings:

The applicant must furnish two complete and correct drawings or sets of drawings showing the location of all valves, pipes, hydrants, and tanks, sprinkler heads and other appurtenances on the premises at the time of making application. The plans will remain the property of the Board.

The applicant also agrees to furnish the Board with drawings showing revisions to piping or appurtenances whenever the same are made. All drawings furnished must be evidenced, first, by the stamp of a professional engineer who has been duly registered and licensed by the Rhode Island State Board of Registration of Professional Engineers **and**, secondly, must be approved and signed by the local fire chief or his/her authorized agent.

6.1.1 Conformance with Fire Flow Ordinance:

On August 13, 1996, the Town Council of the Town of Smithfield adopted a Fire Flow Ordinance entitled "*Water Supply for Fire Protection*". Plans shall be in conformance with this Ordinance when applicable. Applicability and subsequent findings shall be determined by the Board or its designee pursuant to Section 10-506 et seq. (of said Ordinance).

6.2 Annual Charges:

The annual charge for this service shall be made in accordance with the annual fire service charges as determined by the Board. The annual charge shall be based upon the size of the service connection for each service connection from the main. The annual charge shall be as follows:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Annual Charge</u>
• 1 ½”	\$ 50.00
• 6”	\$ 100.00
• 8”	\$ 125.00
• 10”	\$ 150.00

Charges for fire service supplies shall be payable in advance of the date of installation, pro-rated for the remainder of the billing year, and then annually in advance on the regular billing period for the Board.

6.3 Installation to be Approved by Board:

The Board expressly reserves the right to determine the necessity for and the advisability of, as determined by the Board’s engineer, granting any application of this special service, and also the right to determine the size of service pipe which will be granted; depending upon the size of the street main, the available pressure on the main, and the nature and capacity of the fire protection equipment within the building.

6.4 Connection to Domestic Service Prohibited:

No connection shall be made at any time between the fire supply system and the regular water supply to the premises. The only exception is a Board approved combined fire/domestic system. Valves placed on the system shall be of a style that can be sealed by the Board.

6.5 Number of Services:

One (1) fire service only will be allowed to any one building or premises; unless, in the opinion of the Board, or their Engineer, more than one is absolutely necessary for the proper protection of the premises. All fire protection equipment connected to the Board

service shall be confined within the building or on the premises named in the application, and where two (2) or more connections are made for one building or premises, they will be kept separated, unless special permission is obtained from the Board to connect the same in a manner to be approved by them.

6.6 Use of Service:

No water shall be drawn from the fire service pipes for any purpose whatever except for the extinguishing of fires. This paragraph is not to be construed as prohibiting a reasonable use of water for fire drills, draining of the system to prevent freezing or other reasonable use in connection with proper fire protection.

Whenever water is used for this purpose, either by the owner or the insurance inspector making the test, the owner shall notify the Board office prior to making any test and forward this information, together with a brief description of the operations resulting in the use of the water, to the Board.

6.6.1 Fire Flow Tests, Fees, and Liability:

The Board shall be notified in advance of all Fire Flow Tests. Such tests shall only be carried out by Board approved personnel. Fire Flow Test fees shall be fifty (\$50.00) dollars. The testing company shall be liable for any and all damages sustained to both public and private property.

6.7 Cross Connections:

Any fire protection system supplied with water from the Board shall be supplied exclusively with that water and no connection will be allowed with any other system drawing its supply from any other source whereby the Board's water supply may be subjected to contamination.

Any fire protection system using water from any source other than the Board's service shall be kept entirely separate from the water system supplied from the Board's service.

6.8 Inspection:

All fire services shall be subject to periodic inspection by inspectors from this Board. The owner shall give the inspectors all reasonable facilities for making the survey and any information concerning the fire services that they may require. Care will be taken that inspections will be made with as little inconvenience to the owner as possible.

6.9 Vacant Buildings:

If any building with a fire protection system should become vacant, all required sprinkler systems shall be maintained in operating condition during the period of time that the building is vacant. At no time will the Board be able to turn off the supply of water without the written permission of the Smithfield Fire Department.

6.10 Illegal Use:

No person, except an authorized representative of the Board or Fire Department, shall be allowed, under any circumstances, to operate a fire service.

At no time shall the owner of any premise use water from a fire service for uses other than fire protection and applicable testing of the system. Water used for purposes other than the aforementioned permitted uses shall be billed at a flat rate per thousand gallons as determined by the Board and additional charges may be assessed.

6.11 Meters:

All fire supplies shall be metered and conform to the provisions of Section 3 entitled “Meters”, with the following exceptions:

- a. The owner may purchase and install a fire service meter assembly as directed by the Board, provided it is a type approved by the Board and the National Board of Fire Underwriters.*
- b. The owner may purchase and install a back flow prevention device, provided it is a type approved by the Board and the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The Board reserves the right, at any time, to require the owner to install a fire service meter assembly as described in the preceding paragraph (a).*

6.12 Valves:

On the inlet and discharge side of each fire service meter assembly or double check valve back flow preventer, the owner shall install an OS&Y gate valve, manufactured to conform in all respects with the American Water Works Specifications for Gate Valves for Ordinary Water Works Service as amended to date. The valves shall be a type that meets the requirements of the national Board of Fire Underwriters.

On a double check valve back flow preventer installation with a metered bypass, the owner will be required to install a gate valve on the inlet side of the by-pass in conformance with all respects with Federal Specifications WW-V-54 Type 1, Class A, as amended to date. On the discharge side of the by-pass meter, the owner shall install a double check valve back flow preventer equipped with NRS gate valves and ball type test cocks with bronze strainer (Watts #S-709) or approved equal, designed for a working pressure of 175 pounds per square inch.

6.13 Violations of Rules:

For any violation of rules governing fire supplies, the Board may discontinue the service immediately. Restoration of service shall require payment of a twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars water turn-on fee.

SECTION 7

7.0 FIRE HYDRANTS

7.1 Authorization of Hydrant Installations:

The Board shall install public fire hydrants whenever written requests are received from the proper town authority or their location has been approved by the local fire department on new main extensions, and approved by the Board subject, however, to all the provisions described herewithin these regulations.

7.2 Hydrants are the Property of the Board:

All public fire hydrants and their connections are installed and maintained by the Board and remain part of the water works system. The use of all hydrants for public fire protection shall be paid for in advanced by the local town authority at the prevailing rate per hydrant per year as determined by the Board.

7.3 Duty to Inspect and Maintain Privately Owned Hydrants:

Privately owned hydrants shall be inspected and maintained annually. Annual inspection and maintenance shall include but not be limited to flushing; all ports shall be checked for ease of operation. A detailed list, by location, of said inspection and maintenance activities shall be furnished to the Board and the Fire

Department, annually, by June 1st. If the owner is unable to comply with these any of these requirements, the Board shall perform them, for fees to be borne by the owner.

7.4 Obstructing Hydrants:

No person shall obstruct the access to any fire hydrant by placing or permitting any snow, debris, building material or other obstruction to remain on or about the hydrant which will in any manner interfere with its immediate use.

7.5 Use of Hydrants:

Public fire hydrants are installed for the sole purpose of fire protection, and with the exception of the members of the Fire Department operating the same for the legitimate purpose of extinguishing fires, no other use of such hydrants shall be made without the written consent of the Board.

7.5.1 Unauthorized Use of Hydrants:

The violation for unauthorized use of hydrant(s) shall be consistent with RI General Laws 11-35-7.

7.6 Hydrant Spacing/Main Extension:

All main extensions shall include hydrants spaced at five hundred (500) foot intervals.

SECTION 8

8.0 CONDOMINIUM RULES AND REGULATIONS

The condominium owners (hereinafter referred to as the “Owner”) shall purchase and install a master meter assembly with back flow device, which is UL (Underwriters Laboratory) listed & FM (Factory Mutual) approved for fire service use, and approved by the Board, which shall be owned and maintained by the Owner. The Master Meter shall be installed in a Board approved pit at least five (5) to six (6) feet in depth at the front property line giving the Board full and ready access to it. Master meter pits shall be equipped with a Post Reader type remote reader box approved by the Board; purchased and installed by the Owner.

In addition, the Board may require the Owner to purchase and install individual meters for each condominium unit; the Owner and its successors or assigns shall grant to the Board the right of access to read, improve and or repair each individual meter. Every individual meter shall have individual shut off valves and curb stops to be installed according to specifications of the Board. If there is any difference between the total consumption on the Master Meter and individual meters, the overage shall be charged to the Owner.

The Owner shall supply fire hydrants according to the Board Plans and Specifications. Such fire hydrants shall be owned and maintained by the owner. The Board or its designee **and** the Smithfield Fire Department shall approve the location of such fire hydrants.

The Owner shall pay to the Board an annual fire service charge of whatever the Board establishes in accordance with the rates, rules and regulations of the Board.

SECTION 9

9.0 CROSS-CONNECTION AND BACKFLOW

9.1 Cross Connection and Backflow Policy:

The Board has adopted a Cross Connection and Backflow Policy and program. Backflow devices shall be installed in high risk areas as determined by the Board. They shall be tested annually at the property owner's expense.

9.2 Cross Connection Prohibited:

No licensed plumber or others shall cause a physical connection to be made between the Board supply and any other water supply for commercial, domestic, sanitary, fire protection or boiler feed purposes, or for any other fixture be supplied directly from the Board water system through a flushmeter or other valve unless such valve is set above the water closet or urinal bowl or other fixture in such a manner as to prevent any possibility of back siphonage or pollution.

No plumbing fixture, device or construction shall be installed which will provide a cross-connection between the Board supply and a drainage system, soil or waste pipe, so as to permit or make possible the back flow of sewage or waste into the water supply system. Draw-off pipes for draining sprinkler systems shall not be directly connected into a drainage system or a submerged pit.

If the Board water supply is delivered to a tank that is also supplied with water from any source other than the public water supply, such tanks shall be open to atmospheric pressure and the Board's water supplied above the maximum level in the tank. The tank shall be equipped with an overflow pipe of ample size to fix definitely the maximum level of water. There shall be at least six

(6”) inches between the invert of the pipe supplied with Board water and the maximum tank level.

If the Board water supply is delivered to a tank in which there are chemicals, dyestuffs, or other materials used in processing, the pipe supplied with Board water shall not be submerged.

There shall be ample clearance between the invert of the Board supply and the top of the tank to prevent back siphonage into the public supply.

In cases where premises may have (1) internal cross-connections that cannot be permanently corrected, or (2) intricate plumbing and piping arrangements or where entry to all portions of the premises is not readily accessible for inspection purposes, making it impracticable or impossible to ascertain whether or not potentially dangerous cross-connections exist, the public water supply system shall be protected against back-flow from the premises by installation of a back-flow prevention device in the service line, on the customer’s side of the meter of a type approved by the Board dependent upon the degree of hazard that exists and at the customer’s expense. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to have back-flow prevention devices tested and approved by the Board. A written copy of the test results must be submitted to the Board for final approval.

9.3 Pump Connection:

No pump shall be directly connected to any main or service for the purpose of increasing the water pressure in the Owner’s system unless prior written authorization and approval has been obtained from the Board.

9.4 Lawn and/or Garden Watering Systems:

The Board reserves the right to approve any underground or concealed lawn and/or garden system. The Board requires that a residential dual check valve or a commercial double check back-flow preventer shall be installed in the water supply line immediately downstream of the water meter.

The Board reserves the right to inspect and have the owner initiate any steps that may be necessary for proper compliance.

9.5 Dishwashing and Laundry Machines:

Board water supply to dishwashing and laundry machines shall be equipped with an approved vacuum breaker and a check valve located between the vacuum breaker and the fixture. The vacuum breaker shall be located at least four (4) inches above the highest elevation of the machine. **The Board is not liable for interruption in service or damage resulting from the failure to have proper vacuum breakers or check valves.**

SECTION 10

10.0 SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

10.1 Interruption of Water Supply:

The Board furnishes water and *not* pressure, and does *not* guarantee a continuous supply. No responsibility will be assumed for any damage to any apparatus in any house or building due to the shutting off or turning on of water without notice, either for repairs or on account of a break in the pipe lines or other necessary operations.

No person shall be entitled to damages, nor to have any portion of a payment refunded, for any stoppage of supply occasioned by accident to any portion of the works nor for the stoppage for purposes of additions or repairs; or for non-use occasioned by absence or for any other reason.

10.2 Notice of Interruption of Service Not Required:

While it is the intention to give notice, in advance of any work which must be done that will necessitate interruption of the supply, such notice is to be considered a courtesy only and not a requirement on the part of the Board. In case of a break in the pipelines, water will be shut off at any time without notice.

Failure of tenants or property owners to receive notice of interruption of service shall entail no responsibility on the part of the Board or its employees. Property owners must install boilers, hot water tanks and other installations connected with the water supply system, with adequate safeguards so that damage will not occur if the water is shut off without notice.

10.3 Unauthorized Use of Water:

The Board will prefer charges in accordance with Section 11-35-7 of the RI General Laws, as amended, against every person who shall without proper authorization from the Board, tap or make any connection with any street main or service or other distributing pipe connected with the water system, to include hydrants; or who shall without such authorization open any gate or valve connected with the water system so as to obtain water from the system or for the purpose of obtaining such water; or who shall in any way or by any device obtain the use of such water without authorization. The Board may estimate the cost of such water use and charge fees and costs to recover such money. The Board is authorized to

immediately shut off such water supply without recourse to its consequences

10.4 Re-Sale of Water:

No consumer, except with the previously obtained written consent of the Board, will be allowed to furnish water to other persons or property or to allow such persons to take it themselves. Violations of this regulation may cause the supply to be shut off and the water rate already paid forfeited.

10.5 Water Charges to One Person:

When water shall be supplied to more than one party, through a single service, the bill for the whole supply furnished through such service will be made to the owner of the property. In case of non-payment, the water may be shut off, notwithstanding one or more parties may have paid the proportion due from him/her or them.

10.6 Water Waste:

Water must not be allowed to waste through any faucet or fixture to prevent freezing, or kept running any longer than necessary in its proper use. The Board is required to restrain and prevent any and all wastage of water; and, to that end, may, when necessary, turn off the water or take such other action as in its judgment may be proper.

10.7 Rights to Make Inspection:

Inspectors of the Board, or any person authorized by the Board, must have free access at all reasonable hours to all parts of every building, for the purpose of inspecting, removing or replacing meters, examining water fixtures, and observing the manner in which the water is used.

10.8 Request for “Turn On”:

After service has been shut off for any reason, and a subsequent request for turn-on has been received, for such turn-on, a charge of twenty-five(\$25.00) dollars will be levied to the owner of the property or to some one tenant who shall agree to be responsible therefore.

10.9 Refusal to Give Service:

No water shall be furnished to any property which is indebted to the Board for water service(domestic or fire).

10.10 Penalty for Violation of Rules:

If the owner, agent, lessee, tenant, or person in charge of any premises, shall violate any rule or regulation of the Board affecting said premises, and shall fail to remove any violations or comply with any written order of the Board pertaining thereto, within thirty (30) days after such order shall have been sent by mail to the last known address of such person, the Board may discontinue service to such premises.

If water service shall be so discontinued, it shall not be resumed until the rule or regulation so violated shall have been complied with to the satisfaction of said Board and a fifty (\$50.00) dollar fee paid to the Board for the service in turning the water off and a fifty (\$50.00) dollar fee for turning the water on.

The Board reserves the right to make such amendments to the rules and regulations as may be necessary for the preservation and protection of the Board water supply system.

SECTION 11

11.0 CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Board has adopted a water conservation program. Among some of the topics covered are meter accuracy, waste and detection of water leakage, conservation measures, and peak usage reduction.

11.1 Meter Accuracy and Seals:

Water meters are made with great care and precision and should, with reasonable care, give years of satisfactory service. A defective meter will invariably under register, or work in favor of the consumer. All meters before being set have been carefully checked and tested for accuracy, and then placed in service and sealed. **THE CONSUMER MUST NOT BREAK THIS SEAL.** (Reference: *See Sections 3.8, Meter Testing; 3.12, Tampering or Defacing Meters and Seals*).

11.2 Waste and Leakage of Water; Conservation:

If a meter suddenly shows an increase in consumption, with no apparent cause, one of two things has happened; a leak has started, or water has been allowed to run to waste.

Waste and leakage of water is an economic waste, not only to the customer, who pays much larger water bills than he/she should, but to the Board as well, which must provide a system of sufficient capacity to meet demands resulting from leakage and waste in addition to the requirements of the customers. Conservation of water results in indirect savings to the consumer. It eliminates large capital expenditures required in expanding the supply, either at its source or in the distribution system, to meet usual demands from leakage and waste.

11.3 Detection of Leakage:

The flow of water from all fixtures supplied by the meter should be shut off, and the pointer on the circle observed for a period of ten (10) or fifteen (15) minutes. If the pointer moves, a leak is indicated, the size of which may be determined by timing the pointer.

If the leak cannot be located, a licensed plumber should be call, as the Board is not authorized to do the work on private property.

11.4 Conservation Measures:

The Board shall promote conservation measures and encourage consumer education in this area; devices such as low-flow shower heads, and fixtures, and leak detection tablets are encouraged. Conservation kits shall be made available to consumers at no cost. The Board shall advertise such measures on cable-tv and through the local media to the extent possible.

11.5 Peak Usage Reduction:

The Board believes that it is important to have contingency plans in place to reduce peak hour demand during extended heat waves and emergency conditions, and during periods of drought. Further, the Board recognizes that reduction of peak usage is useful in reducing capital investment and prolonging the use of the source of supply.

The Board shall publicize the need to reduce peak water usage when necessary on cable-tv and through the local media to the extent possible. First, this would consist of “odd/even” alternating days for outside watering and/or hour restrictions as needed. Second, this would consist of a complete ban for outdoor usage.

SECTION 12

12.0 SUMMARY OF RATES & SURCHARGES

Retail Water Rate

There shall be a three tier retail rate structure, effective immediately to promote conservation and alternative source supply as follows:

- TIER I. The retail water rate for up to 100,000 gallons, shall be \$ 2.30 per 1,000 gallons usage, effective immediately.
- TIER II. The retail water rate in excess of 100,000 gallons up to 1,000,000 gallons (one million), shall be \$ 2.70 per 1,000 gallons usage, effective immediately.
- TIER III. The retail water rate in excess of 1,000,000 (one million), shall be \$ 3.10 per 1,000 gallons usage, effective immediately.

SERVICE CONNECTIONS/ MAIN CHARGES shall be as follows:

<u>Pipe Size</u>	<u>Charge</u>
• 3/4" to 1"	\$ 1500.00
• 1 1/2"	\$ 1500.00
• 2"	\$ 3000.00
• 4"	\$ 6000.00
• 6"	\$ 9000.00
• 8"	\$ 9,500.00
• 10"	\$10,000.00
• 12"	\$12,000.00

ANNUAL SERVICE & FIRE CHARGES shall be as follows:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>SERVICE Charge</u>	<u>FIRE Charge</u> <i>When Applicable</i>
• 5/8" to 1"	\$ 40.00	
• 1 1/2"	\$ 80.00	\$ 100.00
• 2"	\$ 120.00	
• 3"	\$ 250.00	
• 4"	\$ 400.00	\$ 150.00
• 6"	\$ 750.00	\$ 200.00
• 8"	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 250.00
• 10"	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 300.00
• 12"		\$ 350.00

There shall be a surcharge of \$ 1.10 per connection for the *RI Department of Health*.

There shall be a surcharge of \$ 0.259 per one hundred (100) gallons usage for *RI State Water Fund*.

The Wholesale Water Rate for the East Smithfield Water District shall be five percent (5%) over the wholesale water rate of the Providence Water Supply Board.

Hydrant Fees shall be \$ 200.00 per year.

Fire Flow Test fees shall be \$ 100.00.

Shut-off and Turn-on fees shall (each) be \$ 50.00 plus labor

Smithfield Water Supply Board Goals

1. To maintain the highest quality potable water.
2. To maintain fire flow protection for both residential and industrial users
3. To maintain a cost effective system user rate structure.
4. To promote the effective and efficient conservation, development, and protection of the SWSB.
4. To develop, implement a conservation plan for system users.
6. To continue implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan.
7. To retrofit system devices/appurtenances to comply with applicable codes.
8. To increase system capacity.
9. To expand system service area.
10. To provide an emergency inter-connection with another purveyor for redundancy.
11. Continue and maintain employee training and certifications as follows: RI DOH/AWWA, Drinking Water Operators; OSHA, Confined Spaces.
12. Continue to serve as liaison to Providence Water Supply Board, system users, town officials, other town water districts, and others, as required.

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