

## **THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE**

### **ORDINANCE #2024-04**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the following entitled Ordinance was duly considered and adopted after public hearing by the Board of Trustees of the Township of South Orange Village at their meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2024 during a virtual (call-in) meeting utilizing the Cisco WebEx Audio/Video Conferencing System. The following ordinance was adopted:

**Title: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 351, SECTION 7 REGARDING FAILURE TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO REPLACE WATER METERS AND CHAPTER 351, SECTION 12 REGARDING LOCATION OF METERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of South Orange Village Water Utility has recommended, and the South Orange Village Water Committee concurs, that section 7 and section 12 of Chapter 351 of the Code of the Township of South Orange Village (the "Code") be amended as it concerns customers' failure to replace water meters and the location of meters and repair of plumbing integral to meters.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained, by the Board of Trustees of the Township of South Orange Village, a municipal corporation of New Jersey located in Essex County thereof, that the following sections of the Code be amended as follows:

**Section 1.** Chapter 351, Section 7 is hereby amended as follows:

**351-7 Right Of Access**

The Contract Administrator and the Operator shall have a right of access to any Customer's premises at reasonable times for the purpose of reading meters, inspecting, repairing, replacing or removing Village equipment used in connection with the supply of water, or to search for leaks on the property service line. The Customer shall obtain for the Contract Administrator all necessary permission from tenants or others needed for access to the premises. Customers shall not permit access to meters or other Village property except by authorized employees of the Contract Administrator or the Operator or by other authorized state or local inspectors.

All customers must respond within 30 days of the Village Water Utility request for access. If there has been no response to the Village Water Utility request after 30 days, water service may be shut off and will not be turned on again until the request has been satisfied.

In addition, customers who fail to provide reasonable access to their water meter and continue to rely upon an outdated meter shall be assessed a \$50 monthly charge until the request has been satisfied. Should a customer fail to provide access and fail to pay the \$50 monthly charge, water service to that customer shall be shut off until the request has been satisfied and payment of the accrued \$50 monthly charges has been made or satisfactorily arranged. A turn-on charge of \$25 will then apply for turn-on during regular hours of the Water Utility, plus 1 1/2 of the billing rates of the individual employee for

service rendered after regular working hours and weekends. There shall be a charge of \$50 in the event of a callback and/or rescheduling of meter installations.

**Section 2.** Chapter 351, Section 12 is hereby retitled and amended as follows:

**351-12 Location Of Meters and Repair of Plumbing Integral to Village Equipment**

- A. The location of meters within the Customer's premises or within a suitable enclosure outside thereof shall be subject to the approval of the Operator. Convenience, accessibility and protection shall be the controlling considerations in determining the location.
- B. All meters shall be installed in Service House Connections with all valves required by current applicable codes.
- C. The Village Water Utility may, in its sole discretion, determined that a water meter is, or has been placed, in a location within the Customer's premises or in an enclosure outside thereof that makes access to such meter difficult, impractical, unworkable or inaccessible or that repairs(s) to existing plumbing integral to a water meter is required prior to the Village Water Utility reading, inspecting, repairing, replacing or removing a water meter or other Village equipment. Should the Village Water Utility determine that there are repairs or renovations required to permit reasonable access or to remediate plumbing issues regarding the water meter or other Village equipment, the customer shall make such repairs and/or renovations within 30 days of the Village Water Utility's request or water service may be shut off and will not be turned on again until the request has been satisfied.
- D. In addition, customers who fail to make repairs or renovations as requested shall be assessed a \$50 monthly charge until the request has been satisfied. Should a customer fail to repair or renovate and fail to pay the \$50 monthly charge, water service to that customer shall be shut off until the request has been satisfied and payment of the accrued \$50 monthly charges has been made or satisfactorily arranged. A turn-on charge of \$25 will then apply for turn-on during regular hours of the Water Utility, plus 1 1/2 of the billing rates of the individual employee for service rendered after regular working hours and weekends. There shall be a charge of \$50 in the event of a callback and/or rescheduling of meter installations.

**Section 3.** Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

**Section 4.** This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as required by law.

**Section 5.** On passage this ordinance shall be codified.

Adopted: March 25, 2024

ATTEST:

Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk