

Village of Bethel

Utilities Rules & Regulations

100 – UTILITIES GENERALLY

100.01 VILLAGE OWNED UTILITIES FREE TO VILLAGE.

The interdepartmental use of utilities by all Village departments will be without charge to the receiving department.

100.02 ASSESSMENT OF DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS.

- a. The Village shall assess a delinquent rate of 10% of the total monthly utility bill for those bills paid after the due date.
- b. From time to time during each calendar year, the Fiscal Officer shall present to the Solicitor for collection, utility accounts that have become delinquent for four months, or more, or which are otherwise deemed to be uncollectable. Such amounts, together with the delinquency rates prescribed under section (a) hereof, may be certified to the County Auditor, by the Solicitor, or his or her designee, for collection the same as other taxes and assessments are collected.
- c. All charges for water usage, all electric charges, and all charges for sanitation services, are assessed against the property to which the service is rendered and are a lien against said property, collectible the same as other liens and taxes, in accordance with subsection (b). Transfer of ownership of property connected to the public water system and sanitary sewer system, shall not relieve the property owner of responsibility for charges assessed against the property.
- d. Any Village utility account established and maintained in the name of the tenant, lessee or other person or party for services provided to the premises shall not relieve the property or the owner of the property for liability for such charges.
- e. Any party to a sale, exchange, conveyance or transfer of property, or any such party's agent, may request Bethel Utilities to read the meter(s) at that property. As soon as reasonably possible thereafter, the Village will read the meter(s) and render a final bill for all outstanding water, electric and sanitation charges.
- f. Upon good cause shown, the Village may waive the assessment described in subsection (a) hereof.

100.03 VILLAGE INSTALLATION OF UTILITY LINES; CONNECTIONS AND COST RECOVERY.

- a. In the event the Village installs water or electric lines in areas not heretofore served with such facilities, or has installed such lines in areas previously, or caused the same to be installed by another agency in any area of the Village or within three miles thereof, the following procedure will govern:
 - (1) All such installations shall have the plans and specifications approved by the Village Engineer.
 - (2) All property owners within the Village or hereinafter annexed to the Village where these facilities have been installed, shall within twelve months of the installation or within twelve months of annexation, connect to the water main or electric service.

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- (3) The charge for connecting shall be in such amount as provided by ordinance.
- b. All installations and extensions to the Village utilities, such as water mains or electric service immediately become the property of the Village upon completion.

100.04 SECURITY DEPOSIT FOR UTILITY SERVICE.

- a. The Village shall require a deposit as security for the payment of utility bills from every consumer prior to the initiation of utility service of municipal utility charges.
- b. The deposit shall be returned to the consumer upon termination of utility service if all unpaid bills or other indebtedness to the Village has been paid in full. All or part of the deposit shall be forfeited against any outstanding balance or debt thirty days after termination of service. Any remaining moneys shall be returned to the consumer.
- c. The deposit shall be in such amount as provided by ordinance.

100.05 PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR UTILITIES CHARGES.

- a. No new Municipal utility services shall be provided to any residence unless all adults therein residing, accept joint and several responsibility for payment of said services. Each adult residing in a residence at the time of connection shall be deemed to have accepted such financial responsibility.
- b. No new Municipal utility services shall be provided to any residence if any adult at that residence owes a delinquent utility bill to the Village of Bethel. All delinquent utility bills must be paid in full before any initial service will be provided at the residence.
- c. If after this service is provided by the Village of Bethel to a residence, it is found that a prior occupant who owes a delinquent utility bill for that residence still resides at the residence, current services may be disconnected without liability to the Village, until payment of prior bill is made in full.

100.06 VILLAGE TO BE SOLE PROVIDER FOR ALL NEW CUSTOMERS.

- a. All new utility service contracts for providing water service or electric power service within the corporate limits of the Village of Bethel, as the same may be altered from time to time by annexation or otherwise, shall be entered into exclusively with, and such utility service shall be provided exclusively by, the Village of Bethel Utilities.
- b. Providers of water service or electric power service, other than the Village of Bethel Utilities, shall not, after the effective date of this Ordinance:
 1. Provide utility service to any person or facility within the Village that was not a current active customer of the provider on the effective date of this Ordinance; or
 2. Expand, upgrade, or improve their existing facilities within the Village; or
 3. Provide service to a current customer at a location other than the location where the utility service was being provided on the effective date of this Ordinance.
- c. Whoever violates any provision of this Section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor, the penalty for which shall be a maximum fine of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) and no imprisonment. Each subsequent violation of the same provision of this Section shall be a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, the penalty for which shall be a maximum fine of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) and/or up to thirty (30) days imprisonment. Each day of

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violation of a provision of this Section is a separate offense. In addition to any penalties provided for in this Section, any equitable or other remedies available may be sought by the Village.

100.07 ANNEXATION.

All property owners located in unincorporated areas, shall be required to annex into the Village of Bethel in order to receive new utility services from the Village of Bethel.

100.08 BUDGET BILLING.

- a. The Village of Bethel offers Budget Billing to residential property owners who have occupied their current service address for a minimum of one year.
- b. The Budget Billing period runs from October through September.
- c. The Budget Billing amount is based on the customer's prior year usage. Once a customer completes the application for Budget Billing, the customer will receive a letter of notification providing the Budget Billing estimate. The customer will then be billed for said estimate for that Budget Billing period.
- d. At the end of each Budget Billing period, the customer will receive a make-up statement showing a credit for any overages paid during the period, OR a charge for outstanding balances due to higher than estimated usage during the period.
- e. In order to qualify for, and remain on, budget billing, the residential property owner's account must be kept current, meaning the bill must be paid by the 15th of each month.
- f. If the Budget Billing account becomes delinquent, the customer will be dropped from Budget Billing and the entire outstanding balance will be due. Once dropped, the customer will not be eligible for Budget Billing until the start of the next period.

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200 – MUNICIPAL WATER

200.01 WATER MAINS.

- a. Public Water Main.
 1. All pipes belonging to the Municipal Water Division for the distribution of water and laid in streets, alleys, parks or elsewhere, are public mains. Public mains are to be of cement mortar-lined ductile iron pipe. Every extension of public water mains must have a hydrant. The Village is responsible for public water mains and all service taps up to and including the curb shutoff.
 2. No public main shall be tapped, or connection made therewith, unless the Village Administrator or his duly authorized agent is present to supervise the work.
 3. All ferrules, corporation cocks and service lines for connections with public mains shall have an inner diameter of not less than one inch. Only Type K copper service line shall be used. No variation from this rule will be allowed, except by special permission of the Village Administrator.
- b. Private Water Main.
 1. For the purposes of this chapter, a private water main shall be defined as any water main which is not owned, operated and maintained by the Municipal Water Division. Private water mains may include, but are not limited to, those mains which provide domestic service, fire protection service or both domestic and fire protection services to one or more structures on one or more parcels for the exclusive benefit of those parcels. A private water main shall begin immediately where the responsibility of the public main ends which shall be at the water valve, or if present, at the water meter.
 2. No extension of a private water main shall be made without the prior written authorization of the Village Administrator or his duly authorized agent. All private mains or extensions thereof shall be constructed in accordance with the Public Works Standards.
 3. The Owner(s) of all private water mains providing fire protection service are required to comply with the current edition of the Ohio Fire Code for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

200.02 SERVICE LINES.

- a. Every service line must be laid sufficiently waving, with at least six inches of extra length, to prevent rupture by the settling of the street. The service lines must be placed at least four feet below the surface and be so protected as to prevent damage from freezing.
- b. Every water customer, or owner of premises supplied with service lines and connections for the use of water, shall keep the service lines, connections and apparatus connected therewith in good repair and protected from damage by freezing. The use of leaky hose and couplings or connections is prohibited. All water customers must cause all leaks in service line, hose or any couplings or connections for use in or on their premises to be repaired as soon as discovered.
- c. No service lines connected with the main by one ferrule shall be extended into two distinct premises, dwellings or tenements unless a special permit is issued therefor.

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- d. A stop and waste shall be placed inside each service stop for the purpose of emptying the pipes in the buildings when necessary. The stops must be so located as to be easily accessible, must be protected from freezing and must be equal in strength to the ferrule in the street main, three-fourths inch approved pattern.
- e. Service cocks shall be placed between the sidewalks and the street. Where there is no sidewalk, the maximum distance of the curb stops from the street shall be twelve feet. The boxes therefor must be of iron and of such pattern as has been ordered or approved by the Village.
- f. All service line shall be of Type K copper or galvanized iron. If of galvanized iron, the service line shall be of the quality known as heavy. A meter well is required in the curb lawn. No trench shall be filled or pipe covered until the work has been inspected and approved by the Village Administrator or his/her authorized agent. A maximum of sixty feet of Type K copper will be used by the Village for any one service. If soft copper is used for a service line, then flared fittings are required.

200.03 WATER TAPPING FEES.

- a. Before any main can be tapped and service connected therewith, the applicant shall first pay a tap fee, according to the size of service, at the Bethel Utilities Office. After payment of the tap fee, service will be installed within a thirty-day period.
- b. The water connection service fees by the Water Department for the services shown here in shall be in such amount as provided by ordinance.

200.04 INSTALLATION EXPENSES.

- a. Service line 2" in diameter and less shall be laid to the curb stop and a stopcock and valve box attached by the properly authorized agent of the Village, under the supervision of the Public Works Supervisor and at the expense of the Village, whenever permits have been issued and paid for.
- b. Service line larger than 2" in diameter shall be laid to the curb stop and a stopcock and valve box attached, under the supervision of the Public Works Supervisor and at the expense of the owner, whenever permits have been issued and paid for.

200.05 PLUMBER'S REPORT.

Within forty-eight hours after completing a job, the plumber who has made the service connections shall make a full and accurate return to the Public Works Supervisor of all the uses, both ordinary and special, to which the water is designed to be applied, giving therein the location of the premises, the name of the owner and the name of the occupant. Unless the location of the water service is given to the Public Works Supervisor, or his/her authorized agent, within forty-eight hours after completion of the job, the water service will not be turned on.

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200.06 SUSPENDING WATER SUPPLY.

The Village Administrator reserves the right to suspend the supply of water for fountains, jets, lawn and street sprinkling, water coolers, air conditioning units, tank haulers, car washing and all other outside uses of water.

200.07 WATER RATES.

- a. The water service charge shall be based on water use. The rate for all bills rendered shall be set by Ordinance of Village Council.
- b. Billing.
 1. Bills for water service will be rendered monthly.
 2. The water used by the same person, firm or corporation, but delivered and metered separately or at different locations, will not be combined for billing purposes.
 3. The Village will make available upon the request of a residential customer a plan for uniform monthly payments for water service over specified periods, pursuant to Section 100.07).

The minimum bill shall be calculated from minimum usage of 2000 gallons of water per month.

200.08 METERS; MINIMUM RATE APPLICATION.

Meters shall be maintained by the user against frost, hot water or other abuse. In no case shall the measured water be furnished for less than the established minimum, payable in each case monthly, without regard to the amount of previous payments, and no reductions from the minimum rates will be made on account of the premises standing vacant, unless the water is turned off at the curb stop.

200.09 CHARGES BASED ON METER REGISTRY.

All water services shall be metered and will be charged for all the water which passes through the meter, whether used or wasted. If a meter is proven to register incorrectly after testing by the Village, the consumer will be charged at the average daily consumption as shown by the meter when in order.

200.10 DELINQUENT CHARGES; RECONNECTION FEE.

All charges for water shall be payable by the 15th day of each calendar month. If not paid in full within such time, the bill will be subject to a late payment charge in such amount as provided by ordinance and if payment is not made by the 21st day of each calendar month, the water service shall be discontinued and shall not be reconnected until all delinquencies and reconnection fees in such amount as provided by ordinance are paid.

200.11 TAMPERING WITH METERS.

No plumber, or other person, except an officer or agent especially authorized by the Village Administrator, shall at any time tamper with, remove or repair any meter or fixture connected therewith which has been set by the Water Department, unless authorized by the Village

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Administrator or his/her authorized agent. Any evidence of meter tampering shall result in a \$250 tampering fee.

200.12 HANDLING WATER AT CURB STOP.

No person, except the Public Works Supervisor or his/her authorized assistant, shall turn water on or off at the curb stop, unless given special permission.

200.13 FIRE HYDRANTS.

- a. Public Fire Hydrant. For the purposes of this chapter, a public fire hydrant is defined as a fire hydrant directly connected to a public water main designed to provide fire protection services for the health, safety and welfare of the general public. No person, except the officers of the Public Works Department or their duly authorized agents, or the Fire Chief and members of the Fire Department in case of fire or regular drill of the Fire Department, shall open any fire hydrant or remove any cap or caps from the same. In every case where fire hydrants are open for the uses specified above, the valves shall be carefully closed and the drip examined to see that it is in good working order, and the caps properly replaced. In case the working of any fire hydrant is defective, the party so closing the same shall report the defects to the Public Works Supervisor forthwith.

- b. Private Fire Hydrant.
 1. For the purposes of this chapter, a private fire hydrant is defined as a hydrant connected to a private water main. All private fire hydrants shall be constructed in accordance with the Public Works Standards.
 2. In order to ensure the public health, safety and welfare, it is the private hydrant owner's responsibility to ensure hydrants are visible, accessible and in working condition at all times in accordance with the current edition of the National Fire Prevention Association Standard 25 for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems and the Oberlin Fire Prevention Code. All inspection, testing, maintenance and repairs shall be performed by a professional, licensed by the State of Ohio.
 3. Members of the Fire Department may enter onto private property at any time for the purpose of performing fire flow testing on a private fire hydrant. The Village shall not be liable for any damage or harm occurring in connection with the performance of fire flow testing of a private fire hydrant when the damage or harm is proximately caused by failure of the private fire hydrant.

200.14 USING PUBLIC WATER.

No person shall take, for private use, water from any public building for which the free use of water is provided by law, or from any public watering trough, or public or private fountain, hydrant, street sprinkler, drawcock or hose pipe, except for fire purposes, or in any way take any water for private use which is supplied by the Village of Bethel, without first paying for the same and receiving a written permit from the Village Administrator.

Any contractor, upon application for water, shall post bond sufficient to cover water to be used.

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200.15 TAMPERING WITH STOPCOCKS OR VALVE BOXES.

No person shall remove the cover of any public or private stopcock or valve box, or the cover of any street or lawn sprinkler, or place any dirt, stone or other obstructions in such boxes, or commit any act tending to obstruct the use thereof, or in any manner deface or injure any hydrant, building, machinery, pipe, apparatus, tools or fixtures of the Water Department.

200.16 OBSTRUCTING HYDRANTS OR VALVE BOXES.

No person shall place building or other material on the streets in a manner as to prevent easy access at all times to any fire hydrant or valve box.

200.17 POSTING BILLS PROHIBITED.

No person shall post any bills of any kind on any hydrant, fence, building or other Village property used for Water Department purposes.

200.18 RIGHT OF INSPECTION.

The Village Administrator and all officers and employees of the Water Department shall have free access at all reasonable hours to all parts of premises to which water is supplied to make any desired examination or to do any needful act in conformity to law.

200.19 REPAIRING EQUIPMENT.

In case of breaks in mains, services, pumping machinery, reservoirs or other water works equipment, and for the purpose of tapping, extending, repairing, replacing or cleaning mains, the water may be shut off without giving notice, and no claims will be considered for damages of any materials whatsoever arising from the action. Under ordinary conditions, consumers will always be notified.

200.20 CONDITION OF METERS.

Meters must be kept freely accessible to meter readers and other authorized employees of the Water Department and must not be permitted to become covered with or obstructed by rubbish or other material regardless of whether the meters are located in meter vaults, areaways or basements. Meters will not be permitted to be installed in coal bins or coal cellars. The Village reserves the right to shut off water when violations of these provisions are not corrected, following due notice of the violations to the owner by the Village. Meters must be located at a convenient height for reading and repair.

All services that are not located in basements or meter wells must have a shut-off valve on both sides of the meter so that meters may be removed without draining all the pipes in the building.

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200.21 WATER TO BE FLUORIDATED.

Water provided by the Village of Bethel shall be fluoridated in accordance with the rulings of the Ohio Department of Health.

200.22 BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE INSTALLED; CONNECTION TO PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.

- a. If, in the judgment of the Clermont County Building Department, an approved backflow prevention device is necessary for the safety of the public water system, the water consumer shall, at his/her own expense, install such an approved device at a location and in a manner approved by the Clermont County Building Department and shall have inspections and tests made of such approved devices as required by the County.
- b. No person, firm or corporation shall establish or permit to be established or maintain or permit to be maintained any connection whereby a private, auxiliary or emergency water supply other than the regular public water supply of the Village may alter the supply or distributing system of the Village, unless such private, auxiliary or emergency water supply and the method of connection and use of such supply has been approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.
- c. The Engineer shall cause surveys and investigations to be made of industrial and other properties served by the public water supply where actual or potential hazards to the public water supply may exist. Such surveys and investigations shall be made a matter of public record and shall be repeated as often as the Engineer deems necessary.
- d. The Public Works Supervisor or his/her duly authorized representative shall have the right to enter at any reasonable time any property served by a connection to the public water supply or distribution system of the Village for the purpose of inspecting the piping system or systems thereof. On demand, the owner, lessees or occupants of any property so served shall furnish to the Public Works Supervisor any information which he/she may request regarding the piping system or systems or water use on such property. The refusal of such information, when demanded, shall, within the discretion of the Public Work Supervisor, be deemed evidence of the presence of improper connections as provided in this section.
- e. The Public Works Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue, after reasonable notice to the occupant thereof, the water service to any property wherein any connection in violation of the provisions of this section is known to exist and to take such other precautionary measures as he/she may deem necessary to eliminate any danger of contamination of the public water supply distribution mains. Water service to such property shall not be restored until such conditions have been eliminated or corrected in compliance with the provisions of this section.

200.23 PENALTY.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

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300 – MUNICIPAL LIGHT AND POWER

300.01 POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR.

The Public Works Supervisor shall administer the rules and regulations and rates or charges of the Light and Power Department (also referred to as the Electric Department) under the supervision of the Village Administrator, and shall be directly responsible to the Village Administrator.

300.02 SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The following electric service standard rules and regulations shall apply to all sections of this chapter.

a. Applications and Contracts.

1. Service application. An application accepted by the Village or other form of contract between the Village and the consumer will be required from a consumer for each class of service requested before the service is supplied. This requirement shall apply to new installations, or where service is to be re-established, or a change in the class of service or a change of consumer. This shall not be construed as releasing the property owner from liability for payment.
2. Service contract. The service contract shall constitute the entire agreement between the consumer and the Village and no promise, agreement or representation of any agent, representative or employee of the Village shall be binding upon it unless the same shall be incorporated in the service contract.
3. Large capacity agreements. Consumers now served who seek to increase their present capacity requirements to more than 500 KVA and new consumers who seek to purchase capacities of more than 500 KVA shall negotiate agreements with the Village looking towards an equitable arrangement both as to the term of contract and other conditions requiring special consideration as such capacities may require changes in area facilities or rearrangement of facilities owned by the Village and/or the consumer.

b. Character of Service.

1. Type. Electric service supplied by the Village will be 60 hertz alternating current delivered at the standard voltages available adjacent to the premises where the consumer is located.
2. Continuity. The Village will endeavor, but does not guarantee, to furnish a continuous supply of electric energy and to maintain voltage and frequency.
3. Net Metering. Net metering (an interactive interconnection between the Village's utility system and the consumer's electric service panel using a standard kilowatt hour meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in both directions) is allowed when on-site generating capacity does not exceed 10 KW (kilowatts) and is derived from solar power. In cases where capacity exceeds 10 KW, both the customer and utility must sign a net metering agreement before connecting to the utility.

c. Application for Service.

1. Upon application for electric service, the customer shall provide the following:
 - i. Preferred service voltage and services location. The following voltages are available:
 - Single phase – 3 wire 120/240
 - Three phase – 4 wire 208y/120

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- Three phase – 4 wire 480y/277
 - Three phase – 3 wire 240
 - Three phase – 3 wire 480
- ii. Service entrance ampacity
 - iii. Total connected loads grouped as to lighting, electric space heating, electric space cooling, process heating or refrigeration, water heating, cooking, motors, and special equipment (identify)
 - iv. Load management equipment
 - v. Size of largest motor, type of starter to be used, and frequency of starting
 - vi. Rating and operating characteristics of special equipment such as welders, x-ray machines, etc.
 - vii. Plot plan showing location of buildings to be served, satellite buildings, driveways and parking areas, existing and proposed underground utilities and facilities, signs and outdoor lighting standards, areas to be graded, and areas of the property most likely to be developed in the future
 - viii. Date when customer will be ready for electric service
 - ix. If and when a temporary service is needed for construction, customer shall specify voltage and ampacity of service
2. The customer shall pay the Village of Bethel a non-refundable Connection Fee. The Connection Fee shall equal the cost of all equipment and material, plus 20% for the first \$3000 and 10% on amounts over \$3000. The Electric Department shall provide an estimate of the connection fee based on the drawings and requested service.
 3. The Village of Bethel shall make the final connection of the service once the Connection Fee has been paid in full and the certificate of approval has been received from the Clermont County Permit Central.
 4. The customer shall provide to the Village all executed agreements and/or grants of easement as required for the installation of its facilities on or across private property.
 5. The customer shall provide and install the meter base(s). The Village of Bethel shall approve the type and location of the meter base(s).
- d. Billing.
1. Bills for electric service will be rendered monthly.
 2. The electricity used by the same person, firm or corporation, but delivered and metered separately or at different locations, will not be combined for billing purposes.
 3. The Village will make available upon the request of a residential customer a plan for uniform monthly payments for electric service over specified periods, pursuant to Section 100.07).
 4. For net metering purposes, if the current meter reading is less than or equal to the highest previous meter reading, there are no billable kilowatt-hours for the current month. However, the appropriate customer charge will still apply and continue to be billed monthly. Otherwise, the difference between the current meter reading and the highest previous meter reading is the billable kilowatt-hours.
- e. Connection and Meter Requirements.
1. The Village will furnish one meter or one unified set of meters for each service contract. The consumer shall bring his/her service wires from his/her building in such a manner as to be readily accessible from the Village's lines.

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2. All equipment furnished by the Village shall remain its exclusive property and the Village shall have the right to remove the same after termination of service for any reason whatsoever.
 3. The consumer shall permit only authorized agents of the Village, or persons otherwise lawfully authorized, to inspect, test or remove Village equipment located on the consumer's premises. If this equipment is damaged or destroyed due to the negligence of the consumer, the cost of repairs or replacement shall be paid by the consumer.
 4. The meter or meters shall be located to the approval of the Public Works Supervisor.
- f. Consumer's Wiring and Equipment; Installation. The consumer shall supply all wiring on the consumer's side from the point of attachment as designated by the Village. All consumer's wiring and electrical equipment shall be installed and maintained by the consumer to meet the provisions of the Clermont County Electrical Code.

1. Overhead Services

- i. The consumer shall supply and install the complete service entrance up to the point of attachment for the service drop conductor. The Village shall approve the location of the meter and service attachment before the consumer's work begins.
 - The service-drop attachment shall be located where it is readily accessible and in direct line to the Village's service pole from which the service-drop is to be run.
 - The service-drop attachment shall be so located that the service-drop will not cross adjoining property.
 - The service-drop attachment shall be located at a height to permit the following minimum clearances at any point along the service-drop conductors:
 - a. 12 feet – above finished grade, residential driveways, and sidewalks, as well as 12 feet above any platform or projection from which the conductor might be reached.
 - b. 18 feet – over commercial areas, parking lots, public streets, alleys, roads, driveways, or areas subject to truck traffic.

2. Underground Services

The consumer shall furnish, install, and maintain all secondary cables and pedestals. The Village shall approve the location of the meter before the consumer begins the installation. The Village of Bethel will make the connection of the secondary cable to the transformer.

For connections to pole-mounted transformers, the consumer shall install the cable to the base of the pole and shall provide sufficient cable to reach the transformer. The Village of Bethel will install the conduit or molding up the pole and will make the final connections to the transformer.

If pad-mount transformers and high-voltage underground cables are used in the installation, the consumer shall provide and install the pad for the transformers and provide trenching and back fill for the primary cable installation. The Village of Bethel will set the transformers and will make all high-voltage connections.

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If current transformers are required, the Village of Bethel will furnish the current transformers and cabinet to the consumer. The consumer shall install the current transformers and cabinet. The Village of Bethel will make the metering connections from the current transformers to the meter. The consumer shall maintain the area around the pad-mount free from obstruction so that the Village of Bethel has access for installation, maintenance and/or removal of the transformer. The Village of Bethel shall not be responsible should damage occur to an obstruction during work performed on the transformer.

Per the Connection Fee specifications, the consumer shall pay for all materials, including transformer(s), cable, conduits, connectors, metering transformers, cabinets and meters.

g. Discontinuance and Reconnection of Service.

1. A consumer may order service discontinued at any time unless there is a provision to the contrary in the service contract or applicable rate schedule, but the consumer is responsible for any use of the electric service until the Village has had a reasonable time to secure a final reading or to remove the meter. Service will be disconnected in accordance with Chapter [400](#).
2. Service may be discontinued by the Village in case the consumer is in arrears in the payment of bills or fails to comply with the terms of the service contract. Service will be disconnected in accordance with Chapter [400](#).
3. Additionally, the Village may discontinue service upon discovery that the consumer has made misrepresentation of a material fact to the Village regarding the use of electric service, or has in any other manner fraudulently entered into the service contract. Upon discovery, the Village shall post notice of disconnection seven days prior to the termination of service.
4. The Village may also discontinue service in case the meter or wiring on the consumer's premises is tampered with in any manner to permit the use of unmetered electric energy. In case of discontinuance of service for this reason, the Village shall restore service only after the consumer has paid for the metered and estimated unmetered energy used and has made at his/her expense such changes in the wiring and service entrance as the Village may specify. Prior to disconnection, the Village shall post a notice of disconnection seven days prior to the termination of service. A meter tampering fee in such amount as provided by ordinance shall be added to the account.

300.03 SERVICE MAY BE REFUSED.

While the Public Works Supervisor is not required to inspect the wiring installation of consumers with a view to determining its sufficiency or its safety, the Public Works Supervisor may refuse to supply electrical energy to any installation which he/she considers to be inadequate or which conflicts with the National Electrical Code or any Village ordinances which may apply.

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300.04 NONRESPONSIBILITY OF VILLAGE.

The Village shall not be responsible for any damage caused to persons or property by interruption of service, by defective fixtures or defective wiring on consumers' premises or by the use of energy thereon.

300.05 INSPECTION AUTHORITY.

The duly authorized agents and employees of the Village shall have the right at all reasonable times to enter the premises of any consumer for the purpose of reading, inspecting, repairing or removing the meter and repairing or removing any or all of its appliances or property.

300.06 LOAD CHANGES TO BE REPORTED.

The consumer shall advise the Village Administrator in writing of any material change to be made in his/her installation and shall not make any material addition to or reduction from the connected load at the time the service is installed without first having the written consent of the Village Administrator.

300.07 DELINQUENT CHARGES; RECONNECTION FEE.

All charges for electric service shall be payable by the 15th day of each calendar month. If not paid in full within such time, the bill will be subject to a late payment charge in such amount as provided by ordinance and if payment is not made by the 21st day of each calendar month, the electric service shall be discontinued and shall not be reconnected until all delinquencies and reconnection fees in such amount as provided by ordinance are paid.

300.08 VIOLATIONS OF RULES; SUSPENSION OF SERVICE.

In case of the violation of any rule or regulation herein provided, the Village Administrator is authorized to discontinue service to the consumer violating the same. In such case service shall not be again furnished to the consumer until the reconnection fee is paid.

300.9 CONTRACTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

All applications and contracts for service are subject to changes in rates, service and in rules and regulations hereinafter put into effect by Council or other authority as provided by law.

300.10 ELECTRIC IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY: NEW DEVELOPMENT.

All electrical improvements to be placed in new public rights of way (i.e. proposed streets) for new residential subdivisions, planned unit developments or industrial and commercial developments shall be underground, and shall be constructed by the proposed developer at the cost of the developer. Existing off-site electric facilities to be upgraded for the benefit only of new residential, commercial

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or industrial project shall be installed by the Village, but financed totally by the developer. To the extent that off-site improvements to upgrade the Village's distribution system are made to improve other lands as well as new developments, the cost of upgrading shall be borne by the developer and the Village on the appropriate percentage basis indicating benefit of improvement.

300.11 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ELECTRIC SERVICE: ON-SITE IMPROVEMENT COSTS.

The Village shall provide and install all electric distribution equipment for an overhead service of less than 50 KVA. For capacities of 50 KVA and over, all service equipment other than metering equipment shall be provided, owned, maintained and replaced at the electric customer's expense. When an electric customer is to be served underground by the Village, the customer shall be responsible for the cost of equipment, wiring, excavation, concrete work, ducts and landscaping. Electric customers requiring capacities of less than 50 KVA and who request underground service shall install the service and receive a credit equal to the cost of installing an overhead service.

300.12 UPGRADE OF EXISTING SERVICE: ON-SITE IMPROVEMENTS.

Any costs for the future upgrading of on-site distribution equipment either requested by an electric user or required by the Public Works Supervisor, shall be borne by that electric customer. The Public Works Supervisor shall review the existing Village-owned distribution facilities that are presently located on private property and where over-loading occurs he/she shall require the necessary system upgrading to be made.

Where on-site equipment is to be upgraded the Village shall remove its existing inadequate electric facilities. Any new electric facility to be added must first be approved by the Public Works Supervisor before it may be installed. The Supervisor's review shall deal only with the ability of the municipal system to service the proposed new facility safely.

300.13 CONVERSION OF OVERHEAD TO UNDERGROUND.

Any person requesting that existing overhead electric lines be installed underground shall be required to pay the total costs of the underground installation.

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400.01 CONTINUITY OF SERVICE.

- a. The Village will endeavor to supply utility services continuously and without interruption under all reasonable normal conditions. The Village shall not be responsible for damage or loss resulting from a failure to supply utility services, when such failure is due to any cause beyond the Village's control, including Acts of God, accidents, fires, strikes, riots and war. A failure to supply utility services could include total interruption of supply and/or a variation in supply characteristics.
- b. The Village shall not be held liable for any damage or loss resulting from an interruption or variation in utility services, when such failure is found to originate from the customer's premises. Upon identification of such a problem, the Village will take appropriate actions (including potential disconnection of service) to minimize future impacts on other Village customers.
- c. The Village shall not be held liable for any damage or loss from an interruption or variation in utility services, when such failure is a result of orders or regulations issued by any governmental authority having jurisdiction over the Village of Bethel.
- d. Temporary interruptions of service may result during emergency repair or scheduled improvements. Whenever possible, and as conditions permit, affected consumers will be notified in advance. The Village will endeavor to minimize the impact of such service interruptions by completing repairs or improvements as rapidly as possible.

400.02 METER LOCATION.

Each consumer shall provide without charge to the Village a location for the meters and metering equipment. The Village shall have the right to determine where the meters or metering equipment shall be located on the premises of the consumer. The meters or metering equipment must be so located as to be easily accessible to the Village's employees or agents, and must be located in a safe place and free from the possibility of danger. Meters will not be set nor allowed in a place where there is a likelihood that they will be damaged, hidden or covered by any obstruction. The Village reserves the right to require a relocation of its meters and metering equipment from time to time to accommodate the purposes of this provision of its schedule, and the consumer shall provide for such relocation on request and at the expense of the consumer.

400.03 CONSUMER TO PROTECT VILLAGE PROPERTY ON PREMISES.

All equipment furnished by the Village shall remain its property. Any equipment supplied by the Village and damaged through negligence on the part of the consumer shall be repaired or replaced at the consumer's expense. This includes, but is not limited to water meters damaged by freezing or hot water. Wiring and plumbing systems on the premises of the consumer to which the Village's service is to be connected shall be so installed that the Village may carry out its service obligations and shall be kept in proper condition by the consumer. The consumer shall provide inspections as required by Village Regulations.

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400.04 ACCESS TO PREMISES.

The duly authorized agents of the Village shall have the right and privilege to enter the consumer's premises at all reasonable hours for the purpose of reading meters, inspecting the consumer's wiring and/or plumbing systems and for the purpose of installing, inspecting, keeping in repair and for removal of any or all of the Village's equipment used in connection with the supply of utility services.

The Village may, upon its own initiative, inspect consumer's wiring or plumbing in order to insure itself that safe methods of construction have been followed. Such inspections being for its own benefits and information, the Village does not thereby assume any responsibility for the performance of such consumer installations. Nor do such inspections substitute for any requirements of the Utilities Rules & Regulations.

400.05 CHANGES IN VILLAGE FACILITIES.

Whenever the Village is requested to make changes in, or extensions to, its utility systems to permit work to be done by contractors or others, or for the convenience of the consumer, that portion of the cost of the changes shall be paid by the party requiring same, which the Village, in its sole discretion, shall determine.

400.06 DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE.

The Village reserves the right to discontinue its services and disconnect its lines and/or remove its property for any of the following reasons:

- e. For repairs,
- f. For non-payment of bills when due,
- g. For any fraudulent representation or concealment in relation to consumption or use of utility services,
- h. For violation of, or refusal to comply with any of the General Service Regulations applying at any time to the consumer's service,
- i. In the event the consumer uses utility services in a manner detrimental to the service in general or in his/her immediate locality,
- j. When made incompatible, unreasonable or unlawful by any ordinances of this municipality, laws of the State of Ohio or the Federal Government, or any of their agencies,
- k. To prevent any unlawful discrimination in rates or service,
- l. When the consumer vacates the premises,
- m. For tampering with the Village's meters, meter connections or meter seals, or failure to safeguard the Village's property from damage or further damage,
- n. For reasons of safety,
- o. For any violation of the service agreement, or the reasons hereinabove set forth shall be in addition to the specific reasons contained elsewhere in the Village's regulations.

400.07 REASONS FOR TERMINATION.

Individually metered water and electric service accounts will be considered delinquent and be subject to the Village's termination procedures for nonpayment, if:

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- a. For property owners, when any given bill containing a previous balance, full payment or arrangements for payment have not been made by the due date. The minimum payment necessary in order to avoid the termination procedures shall not be greater than that portion of the bill that represents a previous balance.
- b. For tenants, when any given bill is not paid in full by the due date.

400.08 TERMINATION PROCEDURES.

- a. If it is determined that a customer is delinquent in rendering payment for service, the Village may terminate the customer's service during normal Village business hours in compliance with the following conditions:
 1. Delinquent notice will be mailed to the customer on the next business day following the 16th of each month.
 2. No delinquent bill disconnections may be made after 12:30 p.m. on the day preceding a day that all services necessary for the customer to arrange and the Village to perform reconnection are not regularly performed.
- b. Termination of residential service for nonpayment is prohibited if the termination of service would be especially dangerous to health as certified pursuant to the certification provisions of this rule.
- c. Termination of residential service for nonpayment is prohibited when the termination of service would make operation of necessary medical or life-supporting equipment impossible or impracticable, if the customer establishes an inability to pay the amount due in full and enters into and makes payments in accordance with an extended payment plan.
- d. Medical certification procedures.
 1. The Village shall provide application forms for licensed physicians for certification upon request of any residential consumer.
 2. Any consumer who is a permanent resident of the premises where the service is rendered may qualify for certification.
 3. Medical certification shall be based on the following:
 - i. "Life Support Recipients" - those customers needing to operate life sustaining equipment continuously for twenty-four hours a day. Proof of eligibility is by the Village's receipt of a life support form annually from the customer's physician. The life support form is available from the Utility Business Office. An eligible customers' utility as required by the life support form will not be disconnected, even if the account is delinquent. If the account is in arrears, alternative payment arrangements may be negotiated to avoid legal action to obtain a judgment on such arrearages.
 - ii. "Medical Support Recipients" - those customers who have a medical condition requiring assistance of medical support equipment, but not continuous for a twenty-four hour basis. A medical support form must be provided monthly by the customer's physician. The rules for payment of these accounts are consistent with the regulations prescribed for all other utility billings with the exception of payment extensions listed below:
 - (a) Medical Support (Payment Extensions) - if a Medical Support Recipient account becomes subject to a non-payment disconnection,

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these customers may qualify for payment extensions. A current issued (within the past 30days) medical support form may be provided by the customer's physician to the Utility Office two times (each being for thirty days) during a rolling twelve-month period. The approved form will provide the customer an extension (a maximum of two thirty-day periods, per rolling twelve months) to pay the total amount of the delinquency. Should payment not be received at the end of the extension period, the utility service will be disconnected.

- (b) Medical Support (Following Disconnection for Non-Payment) – if a customer has been disconnected prior to submission of a medical support form, the customer shall (upon valid submission of a certified medical support form) be reconnected once the reconnect fees and one-third (1/3) of the outstanding bill.

400.09 RECONNECTION OF SERVICE.

- a. Reconnection of service that has been terminated for nonpayment shall be made pursuant to the following provisions:
 - 1. Upon payment or proof of payment, including the reconnection charge As set forth by ordinance for each service that was previously disconnected, the service shall be reinstated.
 - i. If the Village received the payment by 4:50 p.m., the service shall be reinstated the same day.
 - ii. If the Village received the payment after 4:50 p.m., the service may be reinstated the same day with the payment of an additional after hours service fee as set forth by ordinance. If the additional fee is not received the service shall be reinstated by the close of the following regular work day.