

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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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 two hundred fifteen thousand feet (41 miles) 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.

In October 2017, the Smithfield Town Council passed Ordinance Number 2017-07. This Ordinance created the Smithfield Water Supply Board Advisory Commission, a five-member volunteer body that analyzes and advises the Water Supply Board on policy and on major operating and investment issues. These issues include the rates and regulations contained herein.

As of 2019, the SWSB serves 1,416 residential meters, 129 commercial meters and 40 industrial meters, and has an approximate capacity of 1.8 million gallons per day. Of this, North Providence has 473 meters, 70 of which serve 1,083 apartments, and consume approximately 220,000 gallons per day. The 40 industrial meters, billed monthly, consume approximately 321,000 gallons per day. The SWSB also provides at a wholesale rate, to the Providence Water Supply Board, 27,000 gallons per day on average to the East Smithfield area of town.

As of 2019, on a peak demand Summer day, the over-all system operates at 79% of capacity.

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

These Rules and Regulations govern the use of the public water system and the installation and connection of water mains and appurtenances for the Towns of Smithfield and North Providence, Rhode Island.

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.

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 1 (401) 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. General information may be obtained at <https://www.smithfieldri.com/water-department/#swsbac>.

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 1 (401) 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.

SECTION 1

1.0 RATES AND SURCHARGES

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

1.1 What your water rates pay for

The Board receives *no* tax revenues and must rely on rate payer revenues to cover water costs.

The water costs include:

- Operational expenses;
 - Day-to-day expenses for operating and maintaining the water system; and
 - Repair of facilities, as needed.
- Debt service (interest and principal) on revenue bonds, when applicable, and
 - Debt service on revenue bonds is the repayment of loans used to acquire water system improvements.
- Replacement of and Capital Improvements to facilities, as needed
 - Improvements to facilities allow the system to keep up with increasing demand and maintain water quality by replacing outdated and worn equipment.

Upon the Board's request, private consultants examine operational expenses and repaying of revenue to determine water rates. The Board is also audited every year by an outside accounting firm.

1.2 Rate Structure

The 3-tiers retail water rates for consumption shall be:

Tier
Tier 1 (1-100,000 gallons)
Tier 2 (100,001-1,000,000 gallons)
Tier 3 (1,000,001 gallons and up)

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 shall be passed along to retail customers on the following billing cycle.

1.3 Annual Service Charge

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"	\$ 73.00
• 1 1/2"	\$ 145.00
• 2"	\$ 218.00
• 3"	\$ 454.00
• 4"	\$ 726.00
• 6"	\$ 1,361.00
• 8"	\$ 2,360.00
• 10"	\$ 3,176.00

1.4 *Water Quality Protection Charge*

There shall be a *Water Quality Protection Charge* of \$ 0.0292 per 100 gallons usage, in accordance with RI General Laws 46-15.3-5. The *Water Quality Protection Charge* is for the purpose of protecting the quality and safety of the public supply of water and to provide funding for projects that protect sources of drinking water. Customers who are 65 years or older, purchasing water for personal consumption, *and* who live in a single-family residence are *exempt* from paying this surcharge. Customers eligible for exemption may request an application from the Board.

1.5 *RI Department of Health Connection Surcharge*

There shall be a surcharge of \$1.50 per connection for the RI Department of Health.

1.6 *Sales Tax Exemptions*

Residential water sales are not subject to sales tax. Commercial and Industrial customers are subject to sales tax.

1.7 *Residential Districts*

Residential meters are read and billed quarterly.

1.8 *Industrial And Commercial Districts*

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

1.9 *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 and continuing use, including maintenance and future replacement costs.

1.10 *Paramount Development Agreement*

“Substantial Users,” as defined in the December 5, 1989 agreement between the Town of Smithfield, Bryant College, and Paramount Development Assoc., Inc. shall be subject to water district improvement fees.

1.11 *Hydrant Rental Charges*

Hydrant Rental Charges for the supply and maintenance of fire hydrants to/in the Towns of Smithfield and North Providence are billed annually on a calendar year basis. They shall be \$ 250.00 per hydrant per year.

1.12 *Wholesale Rate*

The Board may, by Agreement, sell water to another water purveyor. The rate levied shall be negotiated as part of such Agreement.

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, residential accounts are billed quarterly.

2.2 Property Owners are Responsible for Water Bills

Property owners shall be responsible for all water service charges until written notice to discontinue the service has been received by the Board Office from the owner of the property served.

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

In case of change in ownership of the premises, the existing customer/property owner shall be responsible for all water service charges until notice of the change of ownership of the property served has been received by the Board Office, and the new owner has filed with the Board a written application for transfer of water service. A final meter reading 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, and
- (2) subject to the penalties provided by law for the unauthorized use of water.

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 are responsible for all outstanding water charges applicable to said premises. *See* Section 39-15-12 of the RI General Laws.

A sample 2019 copy of an Application form is attached to this Booklet as Appendix B.

If there are multiple downstream meters on a single parcel of property, the owner of said property is ultimately responsible for all of the costs attendant to water usage for all meters on the property.

It shall be the responsibility of the Board to notify the property owner when a bill is thirty (30) days in arrears.

2.3 Payment

All water bills are payable online at:

<https://townofsmithfield.epayub.com/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2F>

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 Interest on Unpaid Bills:

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.

2.5 Liens and Charges

If a customer of the Board has not paid their bill within ninety (90) days after payment is due, the Board may file a lien against the title to the property that has received water service, but for which payment has not been received. 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 once payment in full for the outstanding water charges is received.

2.6 Termination of Service

If bills remain unpaid for forty two (42) days after they are rendered, the Board may terminate water service to the property. If service is terminated, the provisions of Section 10.10 shall govern.

Thirty (30) days from the date the bill is rendered, if no payment has been received, a reminder notice will be mailed. If payment is not received within ten (10) days of the reminder notice, a notice of termination will be mailed. The SWSB office will install a door hanger on the property two (2) days before termination is scheduled. If payment is not made by the second day noted on the door hanger, the service will be terminated the following day.

2.7 *Customer Bankruptcy*

The Board will not discriminate against a customer who has petitioned the Bankruptcy Court for protection against creditors. However, the person filing for bankruptcy must, within twenty (20) days after filing such petition, give the Board adequate assurance of payment for future water service. The Board may 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 may petition the court for further relief. The Board typically requires \$200, or 25% of the outstanding amount owed, whichever is greater, as security. The security will be applied to future invoices one year after the filing of such bankruptcy petition.

2.8 *Service members Civil Relief Act*

The Board will comply with the Service members Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901-4043 (“SCRA”) when imposing these rules and regulations upon customers of the Board who are covered by the SCRA, or who are Rhode Island or Federal employees. Contractors of the State or Federal Government shall not be considered employees of the State or Federal Government. It is the obligation of the customer seeking relief to apply for it and to provide any required documentation to the Board to prove their right to relief under the SCRA.

2.9 *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

The meter and any associated reading devices are the property of the Board and will be furnished and installed at the owner's expense. The Board will determine the appropriate size, type and number of meters for each premises.

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 inside the buildings wall nearest to the street line, provided that this building is not more than one hundred (100) feet from the curb line. In cases where the building is over one hundred (100) feet from the curb line, and at the discretion of the Board, the meter shall be installed just inside the property line, in a suitable housing or water pit approved or supplied by the Board, with remote reading capabilities.

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 Work Performed*

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*

The customer shall be responsible for the Meter installed at a customer premise and shall provide proper protection of the meter against freezing, damage by hot water, and damage or loss by any other means. 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 meter and any associated reading devices are the property of the Board and will be furnished and installed at the owner's expense. The Board will determine the appropriate size, type and number of meters for each premises.

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.

Replacements of existing meters with new Remote Reading Meter Assemblies shall be installed by the Board at no charge to the owner. If the outside reader is not compatible with the inside encoder register, the Board shall be responsible for replacing the meter as well. 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 Section 3.6 hereof.

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. Upon written request of an owner, the Board will test the accuracy of a meter in use at the owner's premises, without charge to the owner, provide the meter has not been tested by the Board within one year prior to such request and provided further that the owner shall agree to abide by the results of such test as the basis for any adjustment of disputed charges. Upon receipt of such request, the Board shall notify the owner in writing of the request that such owner or his/her authorized representative may be present at the meter test. The Board will supply a written report of the test to the owner.

3.9 *Commercial and Industrial Type Meters*

Commercial and Industrial type meters shall be tested annually with the results reported to the Board. Such tests shall be scheduled and paid for by the property owner.

3.10 *Adjustments*

If a meter 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.

If registration or estimation of bills have overstated a customer's consumption, the Board shall arrange to issue credit to the account, unless the customer demands a refund, such refund to be promptly made in full.

3.11 *Repairs to Large Meters*

The Board may make repairs to meters that are two (2) inches or larger in diameter, if it determines such repairs are necessary. If the Board removes the meter to make such repairs, it may install a temporary meter during the time it takes to make such repairs, or the billing may be determined in accordance with section 3.12 below.

3.12 *Billing Non-Registering Meters*

If 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.

3.13 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,.

3.14 Tampering or Defacing Meters and Seals

The Board shall pursue criminal penalties in accordance with Section 11-35-6 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.

3.15 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.

SECTION 4

4.0 SERVICE PIPES

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 water main owned by the Board, except as set forth herein.

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.

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 or gate valve. The curb stop shall be located as specified by the Board.

In addition to installation costs, 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"	\$ 1,500.00
• 1 1/2"	\$ 1,500.00
• 2"	\$ 3,000.00
• 4"	\$ 6,000.00
• 6"	\$ 9,000.00

- 8” \$ 9,500.00
- 10” \$ 10,000.00
- 12” \$ 12,000.00

All charges shall be paid for in advance of installation. An agreement by the Board to extend services pipes shall not be construed by customers as implied or express approval of any development or construction plans or zoning.

4.4 Ownership of Service Pipe from Distribution Main to Curb Stop

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

4.5 New Service Pipe from Curb Stop to Building

The service pipe from the curb stop to five (5) feet outside of the foundation of the building is owned and maintained by the property owner. Such service pipe shall be laid by a qualified contractor. The service pipe from five (5) feet outside the foundation and through the foundation must be installed by a licensed plumber by code. For installations completed for ¾ inch, 1 inch, 1 ½ inch and 2-inch copper sizes, there shall be one continuous run of piping to inside the foundation with no connections or splices. 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 a location 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.

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

4.6 *Material for Service Pipes*

All service pipes that are 3/4", 1", 1-1/2", and 2" 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.

Service pipes from the water main to the curb stop that are 3/4", 1", 1-1/2", and 2" shall be copper.

Service pipes from the curb stop to the house or building, only on domestic installations, that are 3/4", 1", 1-1/2", and 2" shall be copper or plastic, as approved by the Board.

4.7 *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 THAN TEN (10) FEET TO ANY SEWER 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.

4.8 *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”.

4.9 *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 and testable backflow devices two inches (2”) or larger shall be supplied by the owner and approved by the Board. All meter installations must be inspected to conform with installation requirements before a meter is supplied.

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.

4.10 *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, who will install non-testable dual check valves with valve and meter.

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.

4.11 *Tapping Mains*

All water taps shall be saddle taps only with stainless steel saddles. All valves and curb stops shall be open left with no bleeders

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's supply and any other water for commercial, domestic, sanitary, fire protection or boiler feed purposes or for any other intent whatsoever.

4.12 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 fifty (\$50.00) dollar water turn-on fee.

4.13 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 applied 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 4.3.

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 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.

Applications 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 4.3, as far as they apply to this type of service.

6.1 *Drawings*

The applicant must furnish two (2) 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 Charges</u>
• 1 ½”	\$150.00
• 4”	\$ 200.00
• 6”	\$ 250.00
• 8”	\$ 300.00
• 10”	\$350.00
• 12”	\$400.00

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 Reviewed 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. A flow test is required to determine the proper size of the fire service pipe.

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's 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 whatsoever, 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.

6.7 *Fire Flow Tests, Fees, and Liability*

The Board shall be notified 72 hours in advance to schedule all requested Fire Flow Tests. Such tests shall only be carried out by Board approved personnel. Fire Flow Test fees shall be one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each test. The testing company shall be liable for any and all damages sustained to both public and private property, as a result of the testing.

Fire Flow tests are valid for twelve (12) months from the test date provided there have been no hydraulic changes to the distribution system or significant service connections in the area of the test.

6.8 *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.

6.9 *Inspection*

All fire services shall be subject to periodic inspection by inspectors from this Board. The owner shall give the inspectors all reasonable access to 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.

6.10 *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 knowingly turn off the supply of water without the written permission of the Smithfield Fire Department.

6.11 *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.

6.12 *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 set up for radio read, 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).

6.13 *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 testable 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.

High Hazard installation require a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) testable backflow device.

6.14 *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 fifty (\$50.00) dollar 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 of 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 advance, 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 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.

7.6 Unauthorized Use of Hydrants

The violation for unauthorized use of hydrant(s) shall be consistent with RI General Laws 11-66.

7.7 Hydrant and Valve Spacing/Main Extension

All main extensions shall include hydrants, spaced at no more than five hundred (500) foot intervals with main inline valves installed no more than 1,000 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 above ground hot box, 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. The installation and maintenance along with

all water consumption through the master meter and the water distribution system within the property of the condominium shall be the responsibility of the condominium ownership or association.

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 to 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's 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's water and the maximum tank level.

If the Board's 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 annually.

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 vacuum breaker dual check air gap valve or a commercial double check back-flow preventer 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 *Commercial 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 or will 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.

Neither the Board, nor its employees shall have any liability for a failure to provide notice to tenants or property owners of interruption of service shall. 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 pursue criminal penalties in accordance with RI General Laws, as amended, including, but not limited to Sections 11-35-6 and 11-35-7, 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, including interest, to recover such money. The interest rate shall be calculated using the average rate for Single A rated 20-year municipal bonds as published by FMS Bonds, Inc, at <https://www.fmsbonds.com/market-yields/>, or its successors.

In the case of unauthorized use of water, the Board is authorized to immediately shut off such water supply without recourse to its consequences.

10.4 *Re-Sale of Water Prohibited*

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 *“Turn Off” and “Turn On” Fees*

If a service has been requested to be shut off by the property owner for seasonal or other purposes (other than delinquency or violation

of rules), a charge of fifty (\$50.00) dollars will be levied to the owner of the property, who shall be responsible therefore.

An additional fee of fifty (\$50.00) will be charged to turn the service on.

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.

Delinquent payment of bills shall be considered, for purposes of this section, as a violation of rules.

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; 3.14, 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 unusual 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 called, 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.

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.

APPENDIX A FEE SCHEDULE

Retail Water Rate

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

Tier	Rate (per 1,000 gallons usage)
Tier 1 (1-100,000 gallons)	\$5.98
Tier 2 (100,001-1,000,000 gallons)	\$7.08
Tier 3 (1,000,001 gallons and up)	\$8.16

SERVICE CONNECTIONS/ MAIN CHARGES shall be as follows:

<u>Pipe Size</u>	<u>Charge</u>
• 3/4" to 1"	\$ 1,500.00
• 1 1/2"	\$ 1,500.00
• 2"	\$ 3,000.00
• 4"	\$ 6,000.00
• 6"	\$ 9,000.00
• 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"	\$ 73.00	
• 1 1/2"	\$ 145.00	\$ 100.00
• 2"	\$ 218.00	
• 3"	\$ 454.00	

• 4"	\$ 726.00	\$ 150.00
• 6"	\$ 1,361.00	\$ 200.00
• 8"	\$ 2,360.00	\$ 250.00
• 10"	\$ 3,176.00	\$ 300.00
• 12"		\$ 350.00

OTHER CHARGES AND FEES

Department of Health Connection	\$1.50 per connection
Water Quality Protection Charge	\$0.30
Hydrant Fees	\$300.00/year
Fire Flow Test Fees	\$100
Shut-off and Turn-on Fees	\$100 each
Lien Fee	\$100
Removal of Lien	\$50

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

APPENDIX B
WATER SERVICE APPLICATION FORM

APPENDIX C
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 system.
5. To develop and 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, and 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.
13. The policy and rate practice of the Smithfield Water Supply Board shall emphasize maintaining assets in a “State of Good Repair”. Such “State” shall focus on compliance, water quality improvements, reliability and minimizing future operating costs and unscheduled repairs.

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