



Township Council
1 Municipal Plaza
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Louise M. Palagano
Municipal Clerk

<http://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com>

Meeting: 02/28/22 07:00 PM

2022 ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 556, WATER, Article IV Hydrants and Meters § 556-20 METERS REQUIRED; CHARGES AND RATES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD

§ 556-20 Meters required; charges and rates.

[Amended 9-18-1967; 8-11-1975; 3-16-1981]

- A.** No person shall obtain any water supplied by the Township except through pipes equipped with meters installed or authorized for installation by the Bloomfield Water Department.
- B.** All water meters utilized for the purpose of metering the consumption of water shall be wireless, "smart meters" as manufactured by Sensus Technologies or a meter specifically approved for use by the Bloomfield Water Department and Bloomfield Engineering Department.
- C.** Non-conforming or non-compliant water meters are prohibited from being used to meter the consumption of water. A property, structure, building or residence that requires water service from the Township of Bloomfield shall be equipped with a Sensus Technology meter or one specifically approved by the Bloomfield Water Department and Bloomfield Engineering Department.
- D. Water Meter Upgrades**
1. From time to time, the Bloomfield Water Department may enact a program to change or upgrade customer water meters throughout the Bloomfield water system. (Water Meter Upgrade Program). Such programs shall be mandatory and will require all Bloomfield Water customers to allow for the removal and replacement of an outdated or antiquated meter with a new one.
 2. In the case of a Water Meter Upgrade Program, the Township of Bloomfield will incur the expenses for the

changing of the meter. Such expenses shall be related directly to the removal and replacement of the outdated meter. Any modifications determined to be required to the appurtenant piping or plumbing within a building or structure shall be performed at the expense of the property owner.

3. Upgrading or replacement of an outdated or antiquated water meter is mandatory. Failure or refusal of a property owner or water customer to allow for the replacement of a meter within a time frame specified by the Bloomfield Water Department and Engineering Department will result in the following actions:

a. The antiquated meter will no longer be read for consumption. Water consumption will be based upon estimates of past water use as determined by the Bloomfield Water Department. Estimates shall be final and non-negotiable.

b. Assessments will be applied to the customer water bill at each billing cycle to compensate for administrative costs related the calculation of estimates and any other labor, equipment or disputes that may arise due to the failure to properly upgrade the meter. These assessments are as follows:

One and Two-family Homes:	\$500.00
Residential uses, 3-family and above:	\$1,500.00
Non-residential uses:	\$1,500.00

The assessment will be applied to each bill until such time that the meter is replaced by the property owner or customer.

c. The Assessment specified in paragraph b above, may be waived under a one-time situation wherein the customer or owner schedules and completes the upgrade of the meter within 30 days of receiving the first assessment. Failure to meet this 30-day period will result in continued assessments with no

conditions for a waiver thereafter.

- d. Upon the sale or transfer of ownership of any dwelling, building or structure, that contains an outdated or antiquated meter, the owner must allow for the installation of an upgraded meter in order to secure a Certificate of Occupancy, a Certificate of Continued Occupancy, Certificate of Code Compliance, and Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detector Certificates. In this case, the cost of the meter, as well as all expenses related to labor and materials to upgrade the meter shall be borne by the property owner.
- E. The initial charges for water meters shall be as specified in **§556-27** of this chapter.
- F. The charges for the use of water through such services shall be based upon the rates established by **§ 556-38** of this chapter.

§ 556-21 Size of meter; location and protection.

In all cases where meters are to be installed, such installations shall be performed by a licensed plumber in the State of New Jersey. This installation shall include the meter, wiring and mounting of the transmitter box on the exterior of the building or structure. Once an installation is completed, an inspection of the premises will be made by the Bloomfield Water Department to initialize the meter transmitter box and verify that the meter has been installed properly and is functioning. Failure to have the installation inspected will result in assessments, penalties and/or liens against the property due to damages or loss of compensation for water consumed that may result from an improperly installed or inspected meter or transmitter box.

§ 556-22 Sealing meters; tampering.

1. Meters will be sealed by the Township Engineer, his designee or a representative of the Bloomfield Water Department, and no one except an authorized employee of

the Township shall break or injure such seals. No person other than the authorized employees of the Township shall change the location of, alter or interfere in any way with any meter while it is in service.

2. Meter Tampering - No individual shall tamper with a township meter. Examples of tampering are as follows:
 - a. Disconnecting the wiring from the meter to the transmission box located outside the residence or structure regardless of the fact that the wiring is then restored by an unauthorized individual.
 - b. Removal of a water meter from the service pipe regardless of the fact that the meter is then restored by an unauthorized individual.
 - c. Use of materials or devices that interfere with the transmission of data from the meter to the transmission box.
 - d. Any other evidence determined by the Bloomfield Water Department that the meter housing or casing was removed or damaged.
 - e. Any other evidence determined by the Bloomfield Water Department that the meter transmission box housing was removed or damaged.
 - f. Installation of piping or plumbing intended to by-pass the meter.
3. If a property owner either becomes aware or inadvertently causes damage to a meter or transmission box, the property owner shall immediately contact the Bloomfield Water Department or Township Engineer and report such damage. Failure to contact the Township Water Department upon knowledge of said damage will be considered an attempt to tamper with the meter or transmission box.

4. Once a meter has been determined as tampered, either by one of the actions described in Paragraph 556-22-2 above, or as determined through investigation by the Bloomfield Water Department or Bloomfield Engineering Department, the water meter shall be replaced with a new meter. The cost for the meter shall be assessed against the customer's quarterly billing, plus an additional \$2,000.00 administrative surcharge. The Bloomfield Water Department shall also determine and assess the cost of lost or unmetered water and/or other damages that may have occurred due to tampering with the meter.

§ 556-23 Notice of unsealed or damaged meters.

No person shall permit or allow in any building or property any unsealed or damaged water meter through which water is supplied to such person without immediately notifying the Township Engineer that such meter is unsealed or damaged. If removal or modification of a meter is required for any type of construction or renovation to a residence or structure, the Bloomfield Water Department or Engineering Department shall be notified in writing, prior to such disturbance. Failure to provide notice shall be administered in accordance to Paragraph 556-22-2 above.

§ 556-24 Installation, maintenance and repair of meters.

[Amended 9-18-1967; 8-11-1975; 3-16-1981]

- A. All necessary charges and expenses for the initial installation of all water meters shall be borne by the owner of the premises. Thereafter, the Township will, at its expense, repair, maintain and replace such water meters under 1 ½ inches, except where such repairs, maintenance and replacement result from negligence or tampering with the meter on the part of the owner. Where repairs, maintenance or replacement of water meters result from negligence on the part of the owner, and for meters over 1 ½ inches, the necessary expenses for such repairs, maintenance or replacement shall be borne by the owner and shall be charged against and collected from the owner of the premises, including a \$500.00 Administrative surcharge. Negligence shall also include damage to a meter from freezing due to a lack of proper

protection or insulation of the meter. Meters shall not be placed in locations that may be subject to freezing without proper protection or insulation from these conditions.

- B.** The owner shall, at all times, have the meter readily accessible to any employees of the Township, and, if he shall fail to do so, the water supply may be shut off by the Township Engineer. In case of any injury or damage to the meter or in case of its stoppage or imperfect working, he shall give immediate notice to the Township Engineer.
- C.** No water shall be furnished by the Township through a meter which is not in good and accurate working order.
- D.** Water Meter Upgrade Programs - If a water meter upgrade program is being implemented by the Township of Bloomfield, the cost of the initial installation of the new meter shall be borne by the Bloomfield Water Department as described in paragraph § 556-20D.

§ 556-25 Bypass of meters.

All Township water used on any premises where a meter is installed must pass through the meter. No bypass or connection between the meter and the main shall be made or maintained by any person. Bypassing of a meter will be considered "tampering" and shall be subject to the fees and assessments described in Section 556-22.

§ 556-26 Meter tests; Billing Disputes & adjustment of bills.

[Amended 9-18-1967; 8-11-1975; 3-16-1981]

- A.** All meter readings shall be considered accurate and final.
- B.** If a customer wishes to dispute a meter reading or consumption amount, the following procedure shall be taken:
 - 1. The customer shall submit in writing, to the Bloomfield Water Department their intention to dispute the water bill or meter reading. The intent shall include the following information:
 - a. Name of customer; address, location or address

where the meter is located; water billing account number; period of billing for disputed consumption amounts.

- b. The customer shall provide a detailed explanation as to why the amount or consumption is being disputed, including any unusual circumstances that may have resulted in an inaccurate reading.
- c. The customer shall also indicate if they wish to have the disputed meter tested for accuracy. Any customer requesting a meter to be tested shall be subject to the following:
 - i. The disputed meter shall be removed for testing and replaced with a new meter.
 - ii. If the disputed meter is found to register over 1.5% more water across a flow test of 100 gallons for full flow, intermediate flow and low flow, all costs for testing, removal and installation of a new meter will be borne by the Bloomfield Water Department.
 - iii. If the disputed meter is found to register an amount of water that is less than 1.5% more water across a flow test of 100 gallons for full flow, intermediate flow and low flow, all costs for removal and installation of a new meter will be borne by the customer, including an additional \$500.00 administrative surcharge.
 - iv. Prior to administering the testing of a disputed meter, the customer shall provide a signed acknowledgement to the Bloomfield Water Department of their understanding of the procedures enumerated in paragraphs ii And iii above, including the potential costs associated with the testing.
- d. If a meter is found to be inaccurate as described in this section, the Township Administrator, upon recommendation by the Township Engineer, may adjust the water bill for the

current quarter in such manner as it may think fair and just.

§ 556-27 Meter charges.

[Amended 9-18-1967; 8-11-1975; 3-16-1981; 3-4-2002 by Ord. No. 02-07; 2-5-2007 by Ord. No. 07-04]

A. The following charges shall be collected for supplying water meters:

Size	Price
5/8-inch, remote reading, meter	\$335.00
3/4-inch, remote reading, meter	\$335.00
1-inch, remote reading, meter	\$400.00

B. For meters 1 1/2 inches and larger, they shall be purchased by the owner through an outside vendor and all meters must be compatible with the Township's remote reading system. Prior to installation, the owner shall provide the make and model of the meter being installed as well as a specification sheet for the proposed meter. No meters shall be installed without written approval of the Bloomfield Water Department and Township Engineer.

§ 556-28 Opening of curb stops.

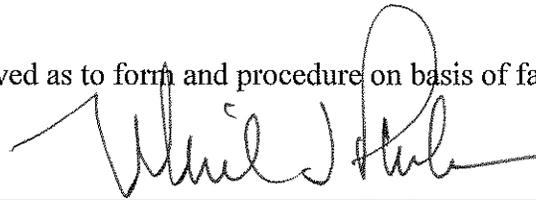
When new service pipes are put into any premises by the Township Engineer, the curb stop shall be left closed and will thereafter be opened by the Department of Public Works only upon order of the Township Engineer at the request of the owner, which request must be in writing if the Department so requires. Under no circumstances shall curb stops be opened or closed by any person not an authorized employee of the Township.

§ 556-29 Multifamily dwellings and other multiunit buildings.

Where a duplex or semidetached house or other building shall be divided by sale or otherwise and the divisions thereof are separately owned, each of such separate divisions shall be connected with the Township water mains by separate water service pipes and meters.

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Approved as to form and procedure on basis of facts set forth.

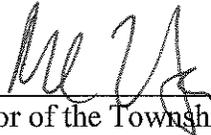


Director of Law-Township Attorney

I hereby certify that the above ordinance was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bloomfield at a meeting of said Township Council held on February 28, 2022.



Municipal Clerk of the Township of Bloomfield



Mayor of the Township of Bloomfield

✓ Vote Record - Ordinance						
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	Jenny Mundell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deny	Nicholas Joanow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	Sarah Cruz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Table	Wartyna Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Discussed	Ted Gamble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> First Reading	Richard Rockwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Table with no Vote	Michael J. Venezia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve						
<input type="checkbox"/> Veto by Mayor						
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion						
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated						
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion No Vote						

✓ Vote Record - Ordinance						
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt	Jenny Mundell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deny	Nicholas Joanow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn	Sarah Cruz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Not Discussed	Ted Gamble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> First Reading	Richard Rockwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Table with no Vote	Michael J. Venezia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve						
<input type="checkbox"/> Veto by Mayor						
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion						
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated						
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion No Vote						