

# **Chapter 26**

## **Water**

### **Part 1**

#### **Connections to Water System**

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**Part 1****Connections to Water System****§26-101. Definitions.**

As used in this Part the following terms shall have the meanings indicated unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

*Domestic unit*—a separate dwelling, apartment, room or group of rooms used for separate dwelling purposes and equipped for the preparation of food. Institutional uses such as hospitals, churches, schools and public buildings shall be considered to be a domestic unit. The determination of the Borough of Port Matilda as to what constitutes a separate dwelling unit shall be final.

*Improved premises*—any parcel of property upon which a domestic or nondomestic unit is located.

*Nondomestic unit*—a separate building, group of buildings or room or group of rooms on a parcel of land held in single and separate ownership and used for any purpose other than as a residential unit. The determination of the Borough of Port Matilda as to what constitutes a separate nondomestic unit shall be final.

(Ord. 163, 6/12/2001, §1)

**§26-102. Water Connection Required.**

All owners of any improved premises located or to be constructed within the Borough of Port Matilda and situate so that water service is available shall be required to connect said premises to the water system serving the Borough and owned by the Borough of Port Matilda Water Works and operated by the Borough of Port Matilda.

(Ord. 163, 6/12/2001, §2)

**§26-103. Water Meters.**

1. A water meter shall be installed in the water lateral in a suitable protective pit directly opposite the point at which the tap is made into the water main. In the alternative, the meter may be located inside the building if the meter is equipped with an outside remote reading device which conforms to municipal standards. Each new water meter shall be furnished by the Borough and installed at the expense of the property owner. All installations must have back-flow preventers.

2. The Borough shall inspect, test, adjust, maintain and/or replace such meters at its own expense, except that any meter damaged in service through the negligent act or omission of the property owner, or his tenant or agent, shall be replaced by the Borough at the expense of the property owner. Meter damage resulting from freezing or back-flow of hot water shall be considered to be the result of negligence of the owner or tenant.

3. The accuracy of the water meters on the Borough systems shall be determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Public Utilities Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Upon request of any owner the Borough will remove the meter from the owner's premises and test the accuracy thereof. If the said meter is

found to register a greater quantity of water than passed through it, to a degree exceeding the tolerance of accuracy prescribed by the Public Utility Commission for such cases, no charge shall be made for such test and the bills for the water rendered on the basis of the registration of such meter for a period of time of not more than 3 months preceding the removal thereof may be adjusted on an equitable basis. If said meter is found to register a smaller quantity of water than accuracy, a charge equal to the costs incurred by the Borough in having the meter tested shall be paid by the owner for the testing of the meter. Upon request the owner may witness the test made during the normal business hours of the Borough.

(*Ord. 163, 6/12/2001, §3*)

**§26-104. Meter Acquisition Cost.**

Meters are available from the Borough at no charge to Borough customers up until March 31, 2001. Commencing April 1, 2001, a fee in an amount as established from time to time by resolution of Borough Council. [*Ord. 178*]

(*Ord. 163, 6/12/2001, §4; as amended by Ord. 178, 9/15/2009*)

**§26-105. Rate Resolution.**

Borough Council may establish by resolution revised water rates for the Borough of Port Matilda water system for domestic, commercial, industrial and miscellaneous uses.

(*Ord. 163, 6/12/2001, §5*)

**§26-106. Water Meters Required.**

On or after July 1, 2001, all water customers not served by meters shall be subject to disconnection.

(*Ord. 163, 6/12/2001, §6*)

**§26-107. Water Laterals.**

1. No water lateral shall be covered until it has been inspected and approved by the Borough of Port Matilda. If any part of a water lateral is covered before so being inspected and approved, it shall be uncovered for inspection at the cost and expense of the owner of the improved premises to be connected to the water and sewer mains.

2. Every water lateral of an improved premises shall be maintained in a sanitary and safe operating condition by the owner of such improved premises.

3. Every excavation for a water lateral shall be guarded adequately with barricades and lights to protect all persons from damage and injury. Any street, sidewalk or other public property disturbed in the course of installation of a water lateral shall be restored at the cost and expense of the owner of the improved premises being connected in a manner satisfactory to the Borough of Port Matilda.

(*Ord. 163, 6/12/2001, §7*)

**§26-108. Penalties.**

Any person, firm, partnership or corporation who or which shall violate any provision of this Part, upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not

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less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 30 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues shall constitute a separate offense.

(*Ord. 163*, 6/12/2001, §8; as amended by *Ord. 178*, 9/15/2009)

