

BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE

ORDINANCE NO. 05-2026

An Ordinance Amending the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Branchville, Chapter 119 Water to Add §119-9 Water Meters and Repairs to Water Lines

WHEREAS, the Borough of Branchville desires to amend Chapter 119 Water of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Branchville as noted herein, said amendments being necessary and appropriate for the preservation of public health, safety and the welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Branchville, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, that the following shall be added to Chapter 119 Water to add §119-9 as follows:

Section 1. The following shall be added as Section 119-9:

119-9 Installation, Maintenance and Testing Requirements.

- a. The service connection and lateral shall be installed and maintained at the sole cost and expense of the property owner. All service connections and laterals shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Plumbing Subcode Official for permits and inspections. The Borough shall be responsible for the inspection of the service connection to the main line.
- b. All meters will, at all times, be under the control of the Borough. Property owners shall provide reasonable care for the maintenance of the water meter, wiring, and outside reading terminal. The failure to care for and maintain a water meter shall be caused to require the replacement of the water meter at the sole cost and expense of the property owner. In such case, the property owner shall pay a fee established by the Borough for meter replacement and an additional fee equal to the price of the replacement water meter. All water supplied by the Borough to any user must pass through a meter approved by the

Borough. Bypassing the water meter is not permitted under any circumstances without the express written permission of the Borough.

- c. When tests made by the Borough indicate a leak in the service connection between the curb, curb stopcock, or curb box and the meter, notice to repair within seven days shall be served upon the property owner. If the notice is not complied with, the Borough may shut off the tap controlling the service connection, or in the alternative may make any necessary repairs and charge the cost to the property owner, to be collected as other charges. If a leak is indicated in a service connection between the main and the curb, curb stopcock, or up to, but including the curb box, the Borough shall repair the leak in the service connection. This shall not be interpreted to mean that the Borough is responsible for the construction or reconstruction of the service connection between the main and the curb, curb stopcock, or curb box, but the Borough shall be responsible for the repair of leaks that may develop in that portion of the service connection.
- d. The Borough will make a test of the accuracy of a water meter upon the written request of by a property owner to the Borough, provided the request is made not more than once per calendar year. The Borough, in its sole discretion, may require a test of the accuracy of a water meter at any time. A report giving the results of such tests shall be provided to the customer, and a record of such test shall also be kept on file in the Borough. If the test for the accuracy of a water meter is done at the request of the property owner, the Borough shall require a payment from the property owner of \$200 in advance to cover the cost of the test, including the cost of personnel required to remove said meter and the cost of the test.
- e. If the results of the flow test indicate that the meter is within 3% tolerance, the property owner shall not be entitled to a refund of the \$200 charge for the test. If the meter shows a variance of more than 3% tolerance or has an error in registration, and the property owner

requested the test to determine the accuracy of the water meter, the customer shall be entitled to a refund of the \$100 charge.

- f. In the event the flow test indicates that that the meter underreported usage by more than 3%, the Borough may bill the property owner for usage for the period prior to the date of the test for the accuracy of the water meter for of unbilled water based upon the results of the test for the accuracy of the water meter.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

Section 3. If any Article, Section, Subsection, Paragraph, Phrases or Sentence is, for any reason found to be unconstitutional or invalid, said Article, Section, Subsection, Paragraph, Phrase or Sentence shall be deemed severable.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall be in full use and effect from and after its adoption.

Section 5. All of the parts, portions, and provisions of Chapter 119 of the Borough of Branchville Ordinances, be and are, and the same are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms thereof.

All other Sections in the Code of the Borough of Branchville shall remain in full force and effect.

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication as required by law.

CERTIFICATION

I, Catherine Leissler, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Branchville, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of an Ordinance introduced by the Borough Council of the Borough of Branchville at a duly convened meeting held on August 5, 2026, and adopted at a duly convened meeting held on September ____, 2026.

Kathryn Leissler, CMR, CTC, RMC
Branchville Borough Clerk

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