



**Brunswick County Board of Commissioners**  
**ACTION AGENDA ITEM**  
2012

**TO:** Marty K. Lawing, County Manager  
**FROM:** Jerry W. Pierce, P.E., Dir. of Public Utilities  
Ext. # 2659

**ACTION ITEM #:** VII-2  
**MEETING DATE:** Sept. 17, 2012  
**DATE SUBMITTED:** Sept. 7, 2012

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**ISSUE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:** ☒ YES ☐ NO

After conducting the public hearing for a proposed Water Meter Regulation Ordinance, adopt the proposed ordinance amendment.

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**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF REQUEST:**

During the past year, County staff has attempted to resolve three issues related to water meters. The issues are as follows:

1. Tampering with water meters to steal water from the County.
2. Allowing shrubs and bushes to grow to a point where meter readers cannot access the meters.
3. Damaging the new electronic water meters by cutting the antenna or removing the lid and damaging the meter.

In our efforts, to resolve these issues, we have discovered that the County does not have an ordinance that addresses these issues. The proposed ordinance follows the North Carolina General Statutes as it relates to water meter tampering. The second part of the ordinance reflects other utilities' methods of resolving obstructions around the meter and damage to the meter.

Staff recommends adoption of the ordinance.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED:**

☐ YES ☐ NO

**CAPITAL PROJECT/GRANT ORDINANCE REQUIRED:**

☐ YES ☐ NO

**PRE-AUDIT CERTIFICATION REQUIRED:**

☐ YES ☐ NO

**REVIEWED BY DIRECTOR OF FISCAL OPERATIONS**

☐ YES ☐ NO

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**CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS:**

**REVIEWED BY COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A

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**ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

Utility Board approved September 10, 2012.

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**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Water Meter Regulation Ordinance.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Ordinance Amendment
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
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**ACTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**APPROVED:**



**DENIED:**



**DEFERRED**

**UNTIL:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

**CLERK TO THE BOARD**

*Debby Stone*

SIGNATURE

**OTHER:**

An ordinance to amend Subdivision C. Connections and Services Lines of Division 2 of the Sewer Use Ordinance by adding a new Section 1-13-743 Water Meter Regulations.

#### Sec. 1-13-743 Water Meter Regulations

##### (a) Water Meter Clearance

No person shall place upon or about any valve, valve box, curb cock, water meter box, or water meter antenna connected to the water system of the County any object, material, debris, or structure of any kind that shall prevent free access to the same at all times or in any manner tamper with or injure such appurtenances. Branches of shrubs and trees must be trimmed to allow free access for reading and maintenance of the water meter. No person shall fill up or cover any valve or meter box. The cost to clear any obstruction of the water meter will be charged to the water customer if the water customer fails to clear the obstruction after written notice.

##### (b) Tampering with a Water Meter

North Carolina General Statute 14-151.1 is adopted herein by reference.

No unauthorized person (including a licensed plumber) shall alter, tamper with, relocate, willfully damage or bypass a water meter. No person (including a licensed plumber), other than an authorized Brunswick County employee, shall reconnect a water meter after a Brunswick County employee has disconnected it.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Whoever is found in a civil action to have violated any provision hereof shall be liable to the County in triple the amount of losses and damages sustained or five hundred dollars (\$500.00), whichever is greater.