

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024-155

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE HERNANDO COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT, ADOPTING REVISED RATES, FEES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT; INCORPORATING WHEREAS CLAUSES; ESTABLISHING CUSTOMER SERVICE CLASSES; ADOPTING REVISED UTILITY DEPOSITS, TAP-IN FEES AND CHARGES, MONTHLY UTILITY SERVICE CHARGES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE, OTHER FEES AND CHARGES, AND TEMPORARY HYDRANT METER WATER SERVICE RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES; ADOPTING REVISED WATER AND WASTEWATER CONNECTION FEES; PROVIDING FOR WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY; REPEALING AND SUPERSEDING PRIOR AND CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Paragraph 125.01(5)(a), Florida Statutes, authorizes the governing body of a county to establish special districts to provide municipal services and facilities with funds derived from service charges, special assessments, or taxes within such district; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 125.01(5)(b), Florida Statutes, provides that the governing body of such special district shall be composed of county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Subsection 125.01(5), Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida (Board), approved Ordinance No. 2005-19, codified as Division 2 of Article VI of Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances of Hernando County, Florida, which created and established the Hernando County Water and Sewer District as a public body corporate and politic (District); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Subsection 125.01(5), Florida Statutes, and Subsection 28-236(b) of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances, the Board, is the ex officio governing board of the District and oversees the provision of water and wastewater utility services to properties within the District; and

WHEREAS, Division 2 of Article VI of Chapter 28 of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances authorizes the Board to establish rates, fees and charges for water and wastewater utility services provided by the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board has established the District as a separate enterprise fund and requires that revenue be sufficient to offset the operation, maintenance and capital expenses of the water and wastewater utility system; and

WHEREAS, the Board is legally required to set water and wastewater utility rates, fees, and charges that are sufficient to offset the District's cost of providing said services; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2009, the Board, sitting as the governing body of the District, adopted Resolution No. 2009-121, which established a schedule of water and wastewater connection fees; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2019, the Board, sitting as the governing body of the District, adopted Resolution No. 2019-151, which established revised water rates, wastewater rates and water irrigation rates for Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2020 through September 30, 2024 and amended certain other fees and charges for the District; and

WHEREAS, the County retained Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. to prepare a report entitled Hernando County 2024 Water and Wastewater Rate and Charge Study, dated March 4, 2024 (the "Report"), relating to rates, fees, and charges to fund the water and wastewater system, which Report is incorporated in this Resolution by reference; and

WHEREAS, based on the Report, the consultant retained by the County and County staff have recommended changes to rates, fees and charges for the water and wastewater utility system; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the recommended changes and has determined that the revised water and wastewater utility rates, fees and charges set forth in this Resolution are necessary to fund the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater utility system; and

WHEREAS, Subsections 28-245(b), 28-246(d) and 28-247(d) of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances require that water and wastewater utility deposits, service rates, tap-in fees, miscellaneous service charges, and other rates, fees and charges must be established and amended by resolution of the Board adopted at an advertised public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the notice of public hearing must be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the County at least 15 days, including weekends and holidays, before the date of the hearing as required by Subsection 28-245(b) and at least 10 days, including weekends and holidays, before the date of the hearing as required by Subsections 28-246(d) and 28-247(d) of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Public Hearing to consider this Resolution was duly published in a newspaper of general circulation in Hernando County; and

WHEREAS, Section 180.136, Florida Statutes, requires a local government water or sewer utility to provide notice of a proposed increase to each utility customer through the utility's billing process before the utility increases any rate, charge, or fee for water or sewer utility service; and

WHEREAS, the notice required by Section 180.136 must state the date, time, and place of the meeting of the local governing board at which the increase in the rates, fees, or charges will be considered; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Proposed Utility Rate Increase was duly mailed to each utility customer in the District's utility bills; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2024, the Board held a public hearing to consider the revised water and wastewater utility rates, fees, and charges; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the County, the District and the water and wastewater utility system to adopt the revised rates, fees, and charges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. WHEREAS CLAUSES. The Whereas clauses contained in this Resolution are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. CUSTOMER SERVICE CLASSES. The following service classes are recognized for the collection of deposits, charging for water tap-in charges, billing of monthly utility service charges, and billing other fees, rates and charges as may be adopted by the Board from time to time.

- A. Residential Service:** Applicable to all accounts classified as owner-occupied residential dwelling units pursuant to Hernando County Code of Ordinances which are individually metered which include dwelling accommodations designed for one-family unit maintaining separate and independent housekeeping including at least one kitchen and does not include a single room or suite intended for occupancy by transient persons which are lodged with or without meals for compensation with water being used for household purposes such as living, sleeping, eating, showering, cooking, washing, and sanitation.
- B. General Service:** Applicable to all accounts and corresponding water consumption not classified as i) Residential Service; ii) Residential Irrigation Service; and iii) General Service Irrigation Service. General Service may include, but not be limited to:
 - a) multiple residential dwelling units served by a master meter such as, but is not limited to, apartments, condominiums, and manufactured home parks; lease-based occupants and single-family residential units and homes used as rental units; and
 - b) commercial services including, but is not limited to, service stations, office and professional buildings, drugstores, medical facilities, hotels and motels, cafeterias and restaurants, and industrial users.
- C. Residential Irrigation Service:** Applicable to all accounts which are individually metered and represents the controlled application of potable water to plants for the purpose of sustaining lawn, landscape, and other plant life and promoting plant growth

solely for use by Residential Service classified customers and is not used for domestic purposes such as cooking, bathing, sanitation disposal, and other essential uses.

- D. General Service Irrigation Service:** Applicable to all accounts which are individually metered and represents the controlled application of potable water to plants for the purpose of sustaining lawn, landscape, and other plant life and promoting plant growth or to facilitate crop production solely for General Service classified customers and is not used for domestic purposes such as cooking, bathing, sanitation disposal, and other essential uses.

SECTION 3. UTILITY DEPOSITS. Pursuant to Section 28-245 of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances the Board hereby adopts the following revised utility deposits for water and wastewater service, unless waived in accordance with the Code of Ordinances:

A. Residential Service:

Water-only Service Account:.....	\$60.00
Wastewater-only Service Account:.....	\$175.00
Combined Water and Wastewater Service Account:.....	\$235.00

B. General Service:

Meter Size	Water-only Service	Wastewater-only Service	Combined Water and Wastewater Service
5/8-inch	\$100.00	\$275.00	\$375.00
3/4-inch	150.00	425.00	575.00
1-inch	250.00	700.00	950.00
1-1/2-inch	475.00	1,400.00	1,875.00
2-inch	750.00	2,200.00	2,950.00
3-inch	1,500.00	4,300.00	5,800.00
4-inch	2,350.00	6,750.00	9,100.00
6-inch	4,700.00	13,500.00	18,200.00
8-inch	7,500.00	21,500.00	29,000.00
10-inch	10,700.00	31,000.00	41,700.00
12-inch	18,700.00	54,000.00	72,700.00

- C. Failure to Pay:** Failure to pay the Monthly Utility Service Rates may result in a deposit increase up to two times the annual deposit rate as delineated in this section or a specific amount as determined by the District for the particular customer account.

SECTION 4. WATER TAP-IN CHARGES. The Board hereby adopts the following fees and charges for connecting to the District's water system:

- A. Water Tap-In Fee:** Charges related to the installation of a flow meter and connection to the to the District’s water system shall be charged in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Water Meter Size</u>	<u>Service Description</u>	<u>Minimum Charge</u>
5/8-inch × 3/4-inch	Drop – In (Meter Only) – Residential Service and General Service	\$380.00
3/4-inch and above	Drop – In (Meter Only) – General Service	Actual Cost
5/8-inch × 3/4-inch	Drop – In and Service Line Installation – Residential Service	\$1,015.00
5/8-inch × 3/4-inch	Drop – In and Service Line Installation – General Service	\$1,620.00
3/4-inch	Drop – In and Service Line Installation – General Service	\$1,660.00
1-inch	Drop – In and Service Line Installation – General Service	\$1,735.00
1-1/2-inch	Drop – In and Service Line Installation – General Service	\$2,750.00
2-inch and above	Drop – In and Service Line Installation – General Service	Actual Cost

- B. Additional Fees:** All individually metered Residential Service customers are to be served by a 5/8-inch by 3/4-inch meter. To the extent a larger size meter is required as determined by the District, additional charges may apply to recover the estimated cost of the specific water tap-in service.

The fees are designed to recover the estimated cost of labor, materials, equipment and vehicles, certain overheads and administrative fees, and any outside engineering and professional service costs required to perform the water tap-in services. Additional fees may be charged to an applicant requesting service if the water tap-in services are considered as a special circumstance as determined by the District.

The meter drop-in fee is for pre-tapped (service line already in place) installations and generally represents the cost of installing the meter only. If the service lines for pre-tapped connections were to property installed by the contractor and need to be re-installed, the full drop-in and service line installation fees shall be charged.

The relocation of an existing water meter and/or service line installation will be based on the actual cost of performing the services as determined by the District.

SECTION 5. MONTHLY UTILITY SERVICE CHARGES. Pursuant to Section 28-246 of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances, the Board hereby adopts the following revised monthly Utility Service Charges consisting of usage rates and base charges for Residential and General Service water and wastewater utility services and Residential Irrigation and General Service Irrigation water utility services as provided by the District.

- A. Water and Wastewater Monthly Utility Service Charges.** Monthly Utility Service Charges shall include a) for each potable water account, a base charge and a water usage charge for water delivered to each water account; and b) for each wastewater account, a base charge and a wastewater usage charge for wastewater received from each wastewater account.

Base charges for water and wastewater service are fixed charges per month applied to each account served by the District and represent the minimum bill charged to such account.

Usage charges for water service are volumetric charges based on the billable water consumption in each consumption tier whether metered or estimated in accordance with approved policy. Water accounts shall be assessed water usage charges for all metered water, including water metered on domestic-use meters and water metered on separate irrigation meters. Usage charges for wastewater service are volumetric charges based on the volume of billable potable water consumption whether metered or estimated in accordance with approved policy. Residential Service wastewater accounts are charged the wastewater usage charge for all water consumption up to a defined billing cap which is 10,000 gallons per month. Where potable water service is not available to an account which receives wastewater service from the District, wastewater usage charges will be estimated based on the application of approved rates to maximum daily flow as defined in the customer's application for service or as otherwise defined by approved policy.

B. Monthly Water Utility Service Charges.

1. Water Base Charge – All Customer Service Classes.

The Base Charge for water service per account for each Customer Service Class to be assessed each month shall be in accordance with the following table.

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Customer Service Class	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
Residential Service:					
All Meter Sizes	\$9.85	\$10.54	\$11.28	\$11.67	\$12.08
General Service:					
5/8-inch	\$9.85	\$10.54	\$11.28	\$11.67	\$12.08
3/4-inch	14.78	15.81	16.92	17.51	18.12
1-inch	24.63	26.35	28.19	29.18	30.20
1-1/2-inch	49.25	52.70	56.39	58.36	60.40
2-inch	78.80	84.32	90.22	93.38	96.65
3-inch	157.60	168.63	180.43	186.75	193.29
4-inch	246.25	263.49	281.93	291.80	302.01
6-inch	492.50	526.98	563.87	583.61	604.04
8-inch	788.00	843.16	902.18	933.76	966.44
10-inch	1,132.75	1,212.04	1,296.88	1,342.27	1,389.25
12-inch	2,117.75	2,265.99	2,424.61	2,509.47	2,597.30
Residential Irrigation Service:					
All Meter Sizes	\$9.85	\$10.54	\$11.28	\$11.67	\$12.08
General Service Irrigation Service:					
5/8-inch	\$9.85	\$10.54	\$11.28	\$11.67	\$12.08
3/4-inch	14.78	15.81	16.92	17.51	18.12
1-inch	24.63	26.35	28.19	29.18	30.20
1-1/2-inch	49.25	52.70	56.39	58.36	60.40
2-inch	78.80	84.32	90.22	93.38	96.65
3-inch	157.60	168.63	180.43	186.75	193.29
4-inch	246.25	263.49	281.93	291.80	302.01
6-inch	492.50	526.98	563.87	583.61	604.04
8-inch	788.00	843.16	902.18	933.76	966.44
10-inch	1,132.75	1,212.04	1,296.88	1,342.27	1,389.25
12-inch	2,117.75	2,265.99	2,424.61	2,509.47	2,597.30

The water base charge for residential service shall be charged to all individually metered residential accounts, including both owner-occupied and nonowner-occupied residential dwelling units.

2. Water Usage Charges – All Customer Service Classes

The Water Usage Charge billed per 1,000 gallons of water consumption per account for water service to be assessed each month per account for each Customer Service Class shall be in accordance with the following table and shall be charged in addition to the Water Base Charge.

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a. Residential Service.

Water Tier (Monthly Usage – Gallons)	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
0 – 5,000	\$1.64	\$1.75	\$1.87	\$1.94	\$2.01
5,001 – 10,000	2.00	2.14	2.29	2.37	2.45
10,001 – 20,000	3.20	3.42	3.66	3.79	3.92
20,001 – 30,000	4.80	5.14	5.50	5.69	5.89
30,001 – 50,000	6.90	7.38	7.90	8.18	8.47
50,001 – 75,000	9.80	10.49	11.22	11.61	12.02
Over 75,000	13.50	14.45	15.46	16.00	16.56

The water usage charges for residential service shall be charged to all individually metered residential accounts, including both owner-occupied and nonowner-occupied residential dwelling units.

b. Residential Irrigation Service.

Water Tier (Monthly Usage – Gallons)	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
0 – 10,000	\$2.00	\$2.14	\$2.29	\$2.37	\$2.45
10,001 – 20,000	3.20	3.42	3.66	3.79	3.92
20,001 – 30,000	4.80	5.14	5.50	5.69	5.89
30,001 – 50,000	6.90	7.38	7.90	8.18	8.47
50,001 – 75,000	9.80	10.49	11.22	11.61	12.02
Over 75,000	13.50	14.45	15.46	16.00	16.56

New irrigation meters for Residential Irrigation Service are prohibited. Due to a concern for conserving Florida’s drinking water supply and resources, Section 28-238(c) of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances prohibits single-family residential water meters solely for irrigation purposes, unless such meters were prepaid and were placed on certain property prior to February 17, 2004. New residential water meters solely for irrigation purposes are prohibited in all service areas after February 17, 2004.

c. General Service.

Water Tier (Monthly Usage – Gallons)	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
Tier 1	\$2.00	\$2.14	\$2.29	\$2.37	\$2.45
Tier 2	3.20	3.42	3.66	3.79	3.92
Tier 3	4.80	5.14	5.50	5.69	5.89
Tier 4	6.90	7.38	7.90	8.18	8.47
Tier 5	9.80	10.49	11.22	11.61	12.02

Tier 6	13.50	14.45	15.46	16.00	16.56
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d. General Service Irrigation Service.

Water Tier (Monthly Usage – Gallons)	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
Tier 1	\$2.00	\$2.14	\$2.29	\$2.37	\$2.45
Tier 2	3.20	3.42	3.66	3.79	3.92
Tier 3	4.80	5.14	5.50	5.69	5.89
Tier 4	6.90	7.38	7.90	8.18	8.47
Tier 5	9.80	10.49	11.22	11.61	12.02
Tier 6	13.50	14.45	15.46	16.00	16.56

The application of the Water Usage Charges by water tier for the General Service and General Service – Irrigation customer classes vary by meter size and shall be applied in accordance with the following tiered water consumption billing table:

**General Service and General Service Irrigation Customer Service Classes –
Water Use by Consumption Tier (Expressed in Gallons Used per Month)**

Meter Size	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6
5/8-inch	0 to 10,000	10,001 to 20,000	20,001 to 30,000	30,001 to 50,000	50,001 to 75,000	Over 75,000
3/4-inch	0 to 15,000	15,001 to 30,000	30,001 to 45,000	45,001 to 75,000	75,001 to 112,500	Over 112,500
1-inch	0 to 25,000	25,001 to 50,000	50,001 to 75,000	75,001 to 125,000	125,001 to 187,500	Over 187,500
1-1/2-inch	0 to 50,000	50,001 to 100,000	100,001 to 150,000	150,001 to 250,000	250,001 to 375,000	Over 375,000
2-inch	0 to 80,000	80,001 to 160,000	160,001 to 240,000	240,001 to 400,000	400,001 to 600,000	Over 600,000
3-inch	0 to 160,000	160,001 to 320,000	320,001 to 480,000	480,001 to 800,000	800,001 to 1,200,000	Over 1,200,000
4-inch	0 to 250,000	250,001 to 500,000	500,001 to 750,000	750,001 to 1,250,000	1,250,001 to 1,875,000	Over 1,875,000
6-inch	0 to 500,000	500,001 to 1,000,000	1,000,001 to 1,500,000	1,500,001 to 2,500,000	2,500,001 to 3,750,000	Over 3,750,000
8-inch	0 to 800,000	800,001 to 1,600,000	1,600,001 to 2,400,000	2,400,401 to 4,000,000	4,00,000 to 6,000,000	Over 6,000,000
10-inch	0 to 1,150,000	1,150,001 to 2,300,000	2,300,001 to 3,450,000	3,450,001 to 5,750,000	5,750,001 to 8,625,000	Over 8,625,000
12-inch	0 to 2,150,000	2,150,001 to 4,300,000	4,300,001 to 6,450,000	6,450,001 to 10,750,000	10,750,001 to 16,125,000	Over 16,125,000

C. Monthly Wastewater Utility Service Charges.

1. Wastewater Base Charge – All Customer Service Classes.

The Base Charge for wastewater service by Customer Service Class to be assessed each month shall be in accordance with the following table.

Customer Service Class	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
Single-family Residential Service:					
All Meter Sizes	\$26.00	\$26.91	\$27.85	\$28.82	\$29.83
General Service:					
5/8-inch	\$26.00	\$26.91	\$27.85	\$28.82	\$29.83
3/4-inch	39.00	40.37	41.78	43.24	44.75
1-inch	65.00	67.28	69.63	72.07	74.59
1-1/2-inch	130.00	134.55	139.26	144.13	149.17
2-inch	208.00	215.28	222.81	230.61	238.68
3-inch	416.00	430.56	445.63	461.23	477.37
4-inch	650.00	672.75	696.30	720.67	745.89
6-inch	1,300.00	1,345.50	1,392.59	1,441.33	1,491.78
8-inch	2,080.00	2,152.80	2,228.15	2,306.14	2,386.85
10-inch	2,990.00	3,094.65	3,202.96	3,315.06	3,431.09
12-inch	5,590.00	5,785.65	5,988.15	6,197.74	6,414.66

The wastewater base charge for residential service shall be charged to all individually metered residential accounts, including both owner-occupied and nonowner-occupied residential dwelling units

2. Wastewater Usage Charges – All Customer Service Classes.

The Wastewater Usage Charge billed per 1,000 gallons of estimated wastewater flow for wastewater service to be assessed each month per account for each Customer Service Class shall be in accordance with the following table and shall be charged in addition to the Wastewater Base Charge.

a. Residential Service:

Wastewater Tier (Monthly Usage – Gallons)	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
0 – 10,000	\$6.01	\$6.22	\$6.44	\$6.67	\$6.90
Over 10,000	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge

The wastewater usage charges for residential service shall be charged to all individually metered residential accounts, including both owner-occupied and nonowner-occupied residential dwelling units.

b. General Service:

Wastewater Tier (Monthly Usage – Gallons)	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
All Usage	\$6.01	\$6.22	\$6.44	\$6.67	\$6.90

D. Annual Review and Adjustments. The Hernando County Utilities Department (Department) shall annually review the Monthly Utility Service Charges established in this Resolution in accordance with the requirements of outstanding bond resolutions and covenants contained therein and the costs and expenses of the water and wastewater utility System. A rate study and analysis of the water and wastewater utility system shall be conducted prior to September 30, 2029 (end of the respective Fiscal Year), unless otherwise provided by the Board. If no rate study and analysis is conducted as of this date, the Monthly Utility Service Charges shall be automatically adjusted on October 1st of each fiscal year beginning October 1, 2029 and thereafter, until a rate study and analysis for the water and wastewater utility system is adopted, predicated on the application of the price index for water and wastewater utilities as approved and published annually by the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC Index). In no event will the application of the FPSC Index be less than 0.00%. The Department shall make recommendations to the Board for any changes to the Monthly Utility Service Charges or any other changes to the rates, fees, and charges as contained in this Resolution. All changes and/or adjustments to the Monthly Utility Service Charges or other rates, fees and charges shall be approved by the Board in compliance with Florida Statutes, and Division 2 of Article VI of Chapter 28 of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 6. OTHER FEES AND CHARGES. Pursuant to Sections 28-247, 28-251 and 28-252 of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances, the Board hereby adopts the following revised fees and charges:

A. Miscellaneous Service Charges and Fees. Special services or handling provided by the District at the request of the customer or to correct improper customers activities shall be charged in accordance with the fees and charges as shown in the following table which are assumed to be conducted by the District during normal business hours which are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on workdays:

(Remainder of page intentionally left blank)

Service or Charge	Amount
Trip charge (including turn on/off and premise visits) on workdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	\$50.00
Trip charge (including turn on/off and premise visits) on workdays after 3:30 p.m., weekends and holidays	\$100.00
Trip charge for emergency turn on workdays after 3:30 p.m., weekends and holidays	\$100.00
Turn off meter for emergency leak on workdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	\$0.00
Turn off meter for emergency leak on workdays after 3:30 p.m., weekends and holidays	\$0.00
Establish new account (initiate service)	\$50.00
Disconnect due to delinquent or non-payment of services	\$20.00
Reconnect due to delinquent or non-payment of services on workdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	\$50.00
Reconnect due to delinquent or non-payment of services on workdays after 3:30 p.m., weekends, and holidays	\$100.00
Meter inspection and data download (no charge for inaccurate meter)	\$55.00
Meter certification bench test for 5/8-inch by 3/4-inch meters (no charge for inaccurate meter)	\$110.00
Meter certification bench test for meters larger than 5/8-inch by 3/4-inch (no charge for inaccurate meter)	Actual Cost
Return trip due to obstruction or customer negligence (each attempt)	\$50.00
Removal of meter or pull meter up to 1" (delinquent or unauthorized use)	\$100.00
Septage dumping – delinquent and account reinstatement	\$150.00
Late fee (if bill remains unpaid next month)	5% of Unpaid Balance
Property debt search, per parcel	\$15.00
Returned mail – per piece returned (not including final statements)	\$5.00
Utility Lien filing fee	\$80.00
Release of Utility Lien filing fee	\$50.00
Backflow compliance enforcement, including test	\$200.00

B. Returned Check Charges and Rejected Electronic Fund Transfer Charges.

Section 28-250 of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances provides for the assessment of penalties and charges as established by Florida Statutes for all returned checks and all electronic fund transfer payments rejected by the bank.

C. Tampering Fees.

In cases where individuals establish a water and/or a wastewater service by performing an unauthorized connection, tap-in and/or a straight pipe, to the County's water system or tamper with the meter serving the property shall pay: i) the actual time and cost of the repair / replacement to undue or fix the illegal or unlawful connection or correct any damages due to tampering at the actual cost to correct the facilities; plus ii) the cost of the estimated water consumed and wastewater service received resulting from the illegal or unlawful connection; plus iii) other applicable fees as may be provided for in Hernando County Code of Laws and Ordinances; plus iv) a fine of \$150.00 for the initial unauthorized connection or tampering event and increasing to \$250.00 for each subsequent occurrence at the same location.

D. Septic/Chemical Toilet User Fees.

A fee billed per 1,000 gallons of septic and/or chemical toilet waste shall be charged to each applicant delivering such waste to the County septic receiving stations in accordance with the following table:

Septic/Toilet Waste Waste Delivered	Effective Date				
	October 1, 2024	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	October 1, 2027	October 1, 2028
Per 1,000 Gallons	\$105.00	\$109.00	\$113.00	\$117.00	\$121.00

SECTION 7. TEMPORARY HYDRANT METER AND OTHER TEMPORARY WATER SERVICE RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES. Pursuant to Subsection 28-247(f) of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances, the Board hereby adopts the following revised temporary hydrant meter and other temporary water service rates, fees, and charges:

A. Temporary Water Service Deposits. Deposits for a hydrant meter assembly to provide temporary water shall be \$2,650.00 or the actual replacement cost of the hydrant meter assembly, whichever is greater. Deposits for temporary service accounts shall not be refunded until the customer’s final bill and the receipt of the hydrant meter assembly from the applicant that initially requested service by the Department. At such time, the deposit shall first be applied by the District towards the applicant’s outstanding account balance and/or damage / loss charges as determined by the Department, and any deposit (credit) balance will be refunded to the customer as applicable.

Deposits for temporary water service provided through a water meter previously installed at the customer premises shall be the same as delineated in Section 1 of this Resolution.

B. Temporary Hydrant Water Meter Service Charges. A non-refundable service charge which includes the cost of the initiation of service and the installation of the hydrant meter assembly at the applicant’s premise is \$150.00.

The applicant requesting service shall not move or relocate any temporary hydrant water meter assembly which shall be the sole responsibility of the Department. The District shall charge a fee to relocate the temporary hydrant water meter assembly of \$65.00 per occurrence.

To the extent that an applicant has moved or relocated a temporary hydrant water meter assembly, the District may charge additional fees to the applicant, including but not limited to, a relocation fee as provided in this section, turn-off and discontinuance of service charges, tampering charges, and other fees as determined by the Department. The District will have the right to immediately discontinue service for the unauthorized relocation or tampering of the water meter assembly and use.

C. Other Temporary Water Service Charges. To the extent that a water meter has previously been installed in accordance with District standards and is considered to be in service and available to register water use at an applicant’s property, the respective applicant may request temporary water service, which is defined as potable water service provided by the District for a period not to exceed 60 consecutive days of

service. The applicant shall pay the District an initiation of service fee of \$50.00 as provided in Section 6 of the Resolution to establish the temporary utility account and activate the water service.

D. Temporary Water Meter Monthly Service Rates. The Department shall bill the applicant for temporary water service based on the Monthly Water Utility Service Charges in effect during the month of delivered water service. The bills for temporary water service will include i) a Water Base Charge based on the size of the temporary water meter being used to provide service; and ii) Water Usage Charges predicated on the application of the water consumption tiers for the individual meter size in service as provided in Section 5 of the Resolution to the applicant’s water consumption. The temporary water meters will be read monthly.

SECTION 8. WATER AND WASTEWATER CONNECTION FEES. Pursuant to Subsection 28-213 of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances, the Board hereby adopts the following revised water and wastewater connection fees:

A. Water and Wastewater Connection Fees. The District will charge all new applicants requesting water and wastewater capacity, including increases to existing capacity previously paid for a parcel, as shown in the table below:

Meter Size	ERU Meter Factor	Connection Fee		
		Water	Wastewater	Total
5/8-inch	1.0	\$2,397.00	\$5,563.00	\$7,960.00
3/4-inch	1.5	3,595.00	8,344.50	11,940.00
1-inch	2.5	5,992.50	13,907.50	19,900.00
1-1/2-inch	5.0	11,985.00	27,815.00	39,800.00
2-inch	8.0	19,176.00	44,504.00	63,680.00
3-inch	16.0	38,352.00	89,008.00	127,360.00
4-inch	25.0	59,925.00	139,075.00	199,000.00
6-inch	50.0	119,850.00	278,150.00	398,000.00
8-inch	80.0	191,760.00	445,040.00	636,800.00
10-inch	115.0	275,655.00	639,745.00	915,400.00
12-inch	215.0	515,355.00	1,196,045.00	1,711,400.00

B. Level of Service. Residential Service includes all connections for individually metered residential dwelling units as defined in this Resolution predicated on the Hernando County Code of Ordinances and shall represent one equivalent residential unit (ERU) which represents the minimum amount of the fee paid by an applicant. The level of service expressed in gallons per day (gpd) for one ERU represents an average daily potable water flow of 325 gallons per day and represents an average daily wastewater flow of 200 gallons per day for individually metered customers receiving service through a 5/8-inch water meter. The ERUs assigned to General Service and General Service Irrigation Service accounts served by individual water meters greater than a 5/8-inch will be based on the number of ERUs as delineated in the table above.

C. Payment of Connection Fees. Upon selection of the appropriately sized water meter necessary to provide water and/or wastewater service as determined by the Department per the request for new capacity from an applicant, the connection fee for water and/or sewer service, as indicated above, will become due and payable at the time of the issuance of a building permit to the applicant associated with the development approved by the County. No building permit shall be issued to the applicant if the connection fees are not paid in full to the District.

If in the future the customer desires to increase the meter size for service to their property, additional connection fees will be due based on the fees in effect as of the time of the capacity request by the customer and allowing credit for that amount previously paid. There will be no refunds for the downsizing of a meter to a smaller size.

SECTION 9. WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY. If the Southwest Florida Water Management District declares and places into effect a Water Shortage which results in water use restrictions being imposed on the District service area pursuant to its rulemaking authority, the District through the approval of the Board may implement up to a 50% water conservation surcharge to the last four monthly water usage tiers of its monthly water usage charges beginning at the first of the month immediately following the month of approval by the Board of the water conservation surcharge. The District will discontinue the application of any water conservation surcharge as previously approved by the Board at the beginning of the month immediately following the month that the declaration of the discontinuance of the Water Shortage water use restrictions was approved by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

SECTION 10. REPEALING AND SUPERSEDING PRIOR AND CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS. All prior and conflicting resolutions or parts of resolutions including but not limited to, Resolution No. 19-151 and Section 7 of Resolution No. 2009-121, shall be repealed, rescinded, superseded, and replaced by this Resolution effective October 1, 2024.

SECTION 11. SEVERABILITY. In the event any provision, portion, or section of this Resolution is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction such decision shall in no manner affect the remaining provisions, portions or sections of this Resolution which shall remain in full force and effect.

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SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution and the revised rates, fees, and charges established in this Resolution shall become effective October 1, 2024.

ADOPTED in regular session this 9th day of July, 2024.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

(SEAL)

Attest:


Douglas A. Choyvat, Jr.
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

By:

Elizabeth Narverud
Elizabeth Narverud, Chairperson

**APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY**

By: *Victoria Anderson*
County Attorney's Office

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