

Effective Date: October 1, 2000

**ORDINANCE 00-28**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 11.5 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING WATER AND SEWER SERVICE POLICIES, RATES, FEES, CHARGES AND CONNECTIONS FOR THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN CODE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners provides potable water service and sewer service in certain unincorporated areas of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, an amendment is necessary for changes in the rate structure and fees in order to properly cover operating cost within the Utilities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:**

**SECTION 1. Amendment.** Section 11.5-21 of the Code of Ordinances, Highlands County, Florida, is amended and adopted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE II. WATER SYSTEM**

**Section 11.5-21. Policies.**

- (1) *Requests for service.* Services will be provided as follows:
  - a. *Service outside the designated areas.* The decision of whether or not to provide service outside the areas described in this subsection will be based on the availability of water treatment, sufficiency of reserve capacity to support the existing system; the economics of the extension of service, and other related factors. The initial analysis shall be made by the County Engineer's Office. If this analysis indicates any unusual impact on the system, the application shall be referred to the County Administrator. The County Administrator may approve the application, but before any application is disapproved, it shall be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.
  - b. *Service within the Tomoka Heights subdivision.* All applications for service within the Tomoka Heights subdivision will be approved contingent upon payment of the appropriate fees and charges.

- c. *Service within the Highway Park area.* All applications for service within the Highway Park area as described in section 11.5-23(b) will be approved contingent upon payment of the appropriate fees and charges.
- (2) *Supply facilities.* The County shall own and maintain all water supply facilities up to and including the meters, whether on public property or within easements on private property. The County may allow an owner or developer to install the water lines, in accordance with County approved plans and specifications, at the County's discretion.
- (3) *Initial payments.* Customers are required to pay, in advance, the meter setting charge, the water impact fee, and security deposit.
- (4) *Fire protection.* Hydrant installations must meet specifications established by the County. The location and number of hydrants required will be coordinated by the County Engineer Office. The owner or developer will pay 100 percent of the cost to install fire hydrants.
  - a. *Responsibility of the County.* The County will repair and maintain all fire hydrants attached to the system.
  - b. *Unauthorized use.* Use of water from fire hydrants is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Emergency Operations Coordinator or the County Engineer. If authorized, a portable water meter assembly shall be installed by the Utility. The user will be charged a deposit, installation fee, base rate and the actual amount of water used.
- (5) *Fire protection charges (unmetered).* These charges, as outlined in section 11.5-22, will be charged for service to private hydrants, sprinkler systems, standpipes and other devices used exclusively for fire protection. The charge for unmetered private fire protection shall be in addition to the cost of a flow indicator and all other necessary costs incurred in making the connection, which are the responsibility of the customer. The Owner shall repair and maintain all fire hydrants and water lines within the boundaries of the Owner's property at his own expense.
- (6) *Tests, inspection and rereading of water meters.* Upon request by a customer, and at no charge, the County will have the customer's meter tested. Any additional test in any 12-month period will be subject to a charge if the meter is found to be accurate. Upon request by a customer, and at no charge, the County will have the meter serving him reread one time within any 12-month period. A service charge of \$5.00 may be imposed for additional rereadings requested by the customer.

- (7) *Resale of water service.* Submetering is hereby defined as any practice which provides water service by the customer to facilities beyond the County's initial point of delivery for the purpose of resale or for a charge based upon consumption. Submetering by any customer for the purpose of resale, unless such customer is a municipality, a department of the state or federal government, or a public utility, is prohibited. Water service furnished through the County's individual meter, shall be rendered directly to the customer for his own use and not remetered by him for the purpose of selling or otherwise providing water service to another.
- (8) *Character of service.* The County does not guarantee the quality of the water supplied or that the supply of water furnished to the consumer shall be free from interruption. The County shall not be responsible in damages to any person whomsoever for any failure to supply water or for any interruption in such service or supply, and such interruption shall not constitute a breach of contract on the part of the County. No liability or responsibility is assumed by the County to the consumer by or on account of any agreement, implied or otherwise, to meet any standard of service with respect to the supply of water, nor will the County assume any liability as the result of the occurrence of any force failure.
- (9) *Cross connection control.* The County will not install or maintain a water service connection to any premises where actual or potential cross connections with another water supply system may exist, unless such actual or potential cross connections are satisfactory to the County and in compliance with the rules and requirements of the state department of environmental protection. The County will not install or maintain any connection whereby water from another water supply system may enter the County's system unless the other system shall have been approved by the County and comply with the rules of the state department of environmental protection. If the potential for water from another water supply system entering the County's system exists, the County Engineer shall require the installation of an approved back-flow preventer device between the County's system water meter and the residence. All costs related to this installation and its maintenance shall be the responsibility of the customer. Furthermore, the water line between the system meter and the residence is the responsibility of the resident. It shall be the duty of the County Engineer's Office to disconnect all cross connections found to be in violation of this subsection. All costs of such disconnections and reconnection must be paid by the consumer prior to restoration of service. Any employee of the County Engineer's Office is authorized to take immediate steps to stop backflow should such employee discern a hazardous situation where contaminants are suspected to be in the process of or capable of entering the County's system.

(Ord. No. 94-12, § 1; Ord. No. 97-36, § 1, 11-25-97; Ord. No. 00-28, § 1; Ord. No. 02-03-43, § 1)

**SECTION 2. Amendment.** Section 11.5-22 of the Code of Ordinances, Highlands County, Florida, is amended and adopted to read as follows:

**Section 11.5-22. Fees and charges.**

**Refer to the Appendix of this document for the current rate schedule**

The following fees and charges shall be in effect until amended. :

(1) *Meter setting charge (all service types).*

Meter Size (Inches)	Charge per Meter
_ x ¾	\$850.00
1	\$950.00
1½	\$1,215.00
2	\$2,280.00
3	\$5,035.00
4	\$9,025.00
6	\$19,990.00
8	\$22,300.00

(2) *Fire hydrants.*

- a. Fire hydrant installation ..... Actual Cost
  
- b. If hydrant is privately owned, but maintained by Highlands County, the Owner shall be responsible for the following:
  - Fire hydrant monthly maintenance rate (per hydrant) .....\$50.00
  
- c. Portable Temporary Service (Hydrant):
  - Deposit .....\$650.00
  - Installation Fee.....\$50.00
  - Base Rate .....(Base Rate for 2" Meter)
  - Water Charge .....(Construction Water Charge)

(3) *Charges for connection, disconnection, and reconnection of water service during regular working hours.*

- a. Connection of existing water service ..... \$ 40.00
- b. Nonpayment reconnect .....\$ 50.00
- c. Temporary Disconnect - Recommended for our winter residents who are gone for the summer. There will be no billing while on temporary disconnect. Deposit will be held on the account until the end of the service:
  - 1. Temporary Disconnect .....\$35.00
  - 2. Reconnection of Service .....\$35.00
- d. Temporary, short term service, for cleaning, maintenance or testing purposes. Date of disconnect must be given at the time service is requested. Connect and disconnect each plus cost of the water used
  - 1. Temporary Short Term Connection .....\$15.00
  - 2. Temporary Short Term Disconnect .....\$15.00
  - 3. Water Use ..... Construction Water Charge
- e. Connecting and disconnecting multiple meters at one location, additional charge for each additional water meter .....\$5.00
- f. Meter testing (additional test in 12-month period if determined accurate) .....\$15.00
- g. Additional amount to be added to the above charges if services are performed other than during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) .....\$ 10.00
- h. Residential water impact fee, per residential unit ..... \$750.00  
(For master metering of multiple units the impact fee will be multiplied by the number of apartments, condominium units, or single family homes).
- i. Commercial/Industrial water impact fees will be based on Equivalent Residential Units (ERU's) One ERU = 275 gal per/household.

The daily usage will be determined by the developer's engineer or architect based on current usage tables. The water impact fee is determined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Daily Usage (GPD)} \div 275 \text{ Gallons} &= \text{Number of ERU's} \\ \text{Number of ERU's} \times \$750.00 &= \text{Commercial/industrial water impact fee.} \end{aligned}$$

(4) *Meter tampering or unauthorized use of fire hydrant.* The charge to be assessed to the customer or recipient of benefits whenever there is evidence of meter tampering, meter bypassing, self-restored water service or unauthorized use of fire hydrants will include the cost of investigation, repairs, the estimated usage and \$100.00.

(5) *Deposits.*

*Placid Utilities:* Exceptions to this policy in the Placid Utilities service area will involve only existing accounts that were in effect November, 1994, when Placid Utilities was purchased by the county. These accounts are "grandfathered" in, and are not required to have a deposit. When those accounts are closed, deposits will be required from the new customer.

*Highway Park:* In the Highway Park service area, the deposits for the original accounts were paid from CDBG Grant Funds. Grant fund deposits will not be returned to the customer, the remaining deposit balance will be returned to the Grant fund when the account is closed. Any account beginning after the original account has closed will pay the deposit for water service.

Upon termination of water service and payment of all outstanding amounts owed, including, if necessary, payment by application of the deposit to the balance due on the account, the balance of the deposit (if \$1.00 or more) will be returned to the customer (except grant fund deposits). Upon the request of the customer, an account may be closed and the deposit held until the customer returns. These arrangements must be made prior to closing the water service.

The following are the required deposits for water service:

- a. Residential, per unit: .....\$50.00
- b. Residential master meter: \$50.00 plus \$50.00 for each unit serviced or twice the highest estimated monthly bill, whichever is greater.
- c. Regular commercial: \$50.00 or twice the highest estimated monthly bill whichever is greater.
- d. Commercial master meter: \$50.00 plus \$50.00 for each unit serviced or twice the highest estimated monthly bill, whichever is greater.

- (6) *Returned checks.*
- a. \$25.00 fee for any item not exceeding \$50.00
  - b. \$30.00 fee for items exceeding \$50.00 but not exceeding \$300.00
  - c. \$40.00 fee or a 5% of face value (whichever is greater) for items that exceed \$300.00
- (7) *Collections.* Payment is due when the bill is rendered and becomes delinquent twenty (20) days after mailing the bill to the account. If payment has not been received by the next billing, the second bill will reflect a balance forward, along with a written notice that the balance forward must be paid within seven (7) days or be subject to service interruption. The Utilities Specialist may postpone delinquent termination for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days for an amount not to exceed \$100.00, if a residential account has proven financial or medical hardship. Any further postponement must be approved by the County Administrator or County Engineer.
- a. *Unusual Consumption Adjustment* - When unusual consumption; such as toilet leaks, theft of water, water line leaks and breakage, or other water waste, occurs, each account shall be evaluated on a case by case basis by the Utilities Specialist and may be adjusted with the approval of the Utilities Director providing that the account produces a paid receipt for the repairs and/or proof of other corrective measures. Decisions shall be based on the reason for the unusual usage, the measures taken to reduce the usage, the account's history with the Utility and the account's ability to pay.
  - b. *Courtesy Adjustments*-In cases when hardship or other unfortunate circumstance are apparent and confirmed, the Utilities Specialist shall evaluate each case on an individual basis based on the reason for the hardship, the corrective measures taken to prevent future high usage, the account's history with the Utility, and the account's ability to pay. Charges and/or fees may be adjusted on a case by case basis with the approval of the Utilities Director providing that the adjustment will restore satisfaction and ensure prompt payments in the future.
  - c. *Payment Plans*-Payment plans may be offered to an account who has proven hardship and is unable to keep their utility account current. Proof of hardship must be supplied to the utility before a plan is offered. The plan will be a signed agreement promising to pay a specified amount until the account is current again. The plan will require the signature of the one responsible for the water usage. The customer will agree to pay as the agreement is written. The Utility director will also sign the agreement, agreeing to accept the payments, with no action taken by the utility as long as the payments are made prior to the delinquency date.
  - d. *Billing of Accounts with a payment plan* -Although payment plans may be established, all amounts due will remain on the account's monthly utility bill.

Their account will not be subject to late charges if payments are made prior to the delinquency date posted on each billing statement. Failure to make any payment as agreed will result in interruption of water service. Re-establishing service will require the payment of all charges; delinquent and current.

- (8) *Billing dates.* The County uses cycle billing, with a customer's meter being read, bills computed and statements mailed on a regular basis approximately the same time each month. Bills are computed approximately three (3) working days after the meter is read. Billing statements are prepared with a statement date (mailing date) shown on each bill.
- (9) *Late payment penalty.* A penalty of 1.5 percent of balance past due (\$30.00 minimum past due) with a \$1.00 minimum late payment penalty (late charge) shall be added to the amount due if payment is not received by 4:00 p.m. on the specified delinquent date.
- (10) *Residential and commercial monthly base charge.*

Unless otherwise amended, the following residential and commercial monthly base charges shall remain in effect through the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and each fiscal year thereafter shall be increased by the percent change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the last twelve (12) months not to exceed three (3) percent per annum. The County Engineer shall review the revenue requirements of the utility beginning in March of 2002, and every year thereafter. If upon evaluation by the County Engineer, the CPI adjustment is not required for the fiscal year beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, the County Engineer may recommend to the Board of County Commissioners not to adjust the rates for that year.

**Refer to the Appendix of this document for the current rate schedule**

Meter Size (Inches)	Charge per Meter
¾ and smaller	\$11.00
1	\$11.72
1½	\$13.64
2	\$15.51
3	\$21.96
4	\$26.18
6	\$29.48
8	\$34.96

(11) *Residential and commercial water use charges.*

Unless otherwise amended, the following residential and commercial water use charges shall remain in effect through the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and each fiscal year thereafter shall be increased by the percent change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the last twelve (12) months not to exceed three (3) percent per annum. The County Engineer shall review the revenue requirements of the utility beginning in March of 2002, and every year thereafter. If upon evaluation by the County Engineer, the CPI adjustment is not required for the fiscal year beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, the County Engineer may recommend to the Board of County Commissioners not to adjust the rates for that year.

**Refer to the Appendix of this document for the current rate schedule**

<u>Gallonage</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1- 6,000	\$3.20
6,001- 9,000	\$3.35
9,001- 12,000	\$3.50
12,001- 15,000	\$3.65
15,001- 18,000	\$3.80
18,001- 21,000	\$3.95
21,001- 24,000	\$4.10
24,001- and above	\$4.25

Note: (a) A charge of \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons ~~monthly customer charge~~ will be charged for volumes over 24,000 gallons. **(Or refer to the current rate schedule)**

(b) Minimum commercial charge: \$25.00 per month.

(12) *Temporary construction service.* Applicable to all customers with approved applications of permanent water service and needing temporary water service during construction. The permanent water meters shall be installed at the location in a construction status to be billed on a special rate for water actually used. Neither the customer charge nor the minimum charge will apply. Construction service will be effective until the end of construction, but not to exceed six (6) months without the approval of the County Engineer. Upon approval of the water service application, all meter setting charges, which include the turn-on charge, system development charges and seventy (75) percent of the estimated cost of main extensions and associated costs must be paid prior to start of construction. The remaining balance of actual costs will be due and payable when billed, upon completion of the installation of the water facilities. The amount of the Deposit shall be twice the amount of the

estimated monthly bill.

(13) *Construction water rate (monthly)*

- a. Customer charge and minimum charge: ..... None
- b. Water charge (per 1,000 gallons): ..... \$4.25

**(Refer to the Appendix with the current water rate of Construction Water)**

(14) *Undetected Water Loss.* The County Engineer may make adjustments to billings in circumstances where a leak has occurred on the customers' side of the meter and resulted in excessive water usage. The following options are provided as a resolution for undetected water loss with regards to the cost that will be charged for the loss:

- a. Average the bill for the past 3 months, and charge the user the average.
- b. Charge the account the average bill plus \$1.00 for every thousand gallons over the average monthly use, and charge the average sewer charge only if sewer is billed.
- c. Continue to charge for all the water metered at the lowest rate provided in this section, and average the sewer charge if sewer is billed.

(Ord. No. 94-12, § 2; Ord. No. 96-23, § 1; Ord. No. 97-36, § 2; Ord. No. 98-07, § 1; Ord. No. 98-12, § 1; Ord. No. 00-28, § 2; Ord. No. 01-02-9, § 1; Ord. No. 02-03-43, §§ 2, 3)

**Sec. 11.5-23. County Highway Park water system.**

(a) *Authority.* This section is adopted pursuant to F.S. § 125.01, and all provisions contained herein shall be construed as having been adopted in the interest of public health, safety, and general welfare of the present and future residents of the Highway Park area as described in subsection (b).

(b) *Area.* This section shall be applicable to all buildings, mobile homes, manufactured homes, and apartment units within the limits of Highway Park, Highlands County, as described generally as follows:

A portion of Sections 7 and 8, Township 37 South, Range 30 East, Highlands County, Florida, containing all or part of the following plats: "Highway Park" as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 93, "First Addition to Highway Park Subdivision" as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 125, "Second Addition Highway Park Subdivision" as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 3 130, "Third Addition to Highway Park" as recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 8, "Fourth Addition to Highway Park" as recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 31, "South Additionto Highway Park" as recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 75, "McGahee Addition" as recorded in Plat Book 12, Page 12, "Hilton Heights" as recorded in Plat Book 13, Page 65, "Taylor Subdivision" as recorded in Plat Book 13, Page 66, "Subdivision of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 37 South, Range 30 East" as recorded in Official Record Book 49, Page 462, "Subdivision of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 37 South, Range 30East" as recorded in Official Record Book 149, Page 420, "Harry Taylor Highway Park Tract" as recorded in Official Record Book 65, Page 586, "East Highway Park Subdivision" (unrecorded) (all of the above are per the public records of Highlands County, Florida), being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the southwest corner of tract "B," "Sweetwater Estates Division of Twin Lake Groves," according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 13, Page 21 of the public records of Highlands County, Florida; thence, north 57°49'19" west, a distance of 161.47 feet to the point of beginning; thence, south 90°00'00" east, a distance of 2035.00 feet; thence, south 00°00'00" east, a distance of 695.00 feet; thence, south 90°00'00" east, a distance of 700.00 feet; thence, south 00°00'00" east, a distance of 1335.00 feet; thence, south 90°00'00" east, a distance of 670.00 feet; thence, south 00°00'00" east, a distance of 700.00 feet; thence, north 90°00'00" west, a distance of 675.00 feet; thence, south 00°00'00" east, a distance of 650.00 feet; thence, north 90°00'00" west, a distance of 880.44 feet; thence, north 28°41'16" west, a distance of 3852.96 feet to the point of beginning.

Said lands lying in Highlands County, Florida, containing 136.986 acres, more or less.

(c) *Connection with county water system.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, the owner of every lot or parcel of land upon which a building, mobile home, manufactured home or apartment unit is located, whether now or in the future, whether used for residential commercial, nonprofit, public, industrial, or other purposes, shall cause the plumbing used to deliver potable water to and within each such building, mobile home, manufactured home, or apartment unit to be connected to the county potable watersystem within five years after being notified, in writing, by the Highlands County Engineer that potable water service has been made available by the County potable water system. The fees and charges imposed shall be the amounts specified in section 11.5-22 of the Code, as amended from time to time, except that the impact fees and hook-up fees therein provided shall not be imposed on those hook-ups approved by the county engineer on or before January 14, 1998, but shall be imposed on all new hook-ups approved thereafter.

(d) *Exemptions.* The following exemptions are hereby made:

(1) Any building, mobile home, manufactured home, or apartment unit connected on January 1, 1997, to a well constructed after February 7, 1995, that meets the construction standards outlined in Rules 62-524.500 and 62-524.550, Florida Administrative Code, for "delineated areas" shall exempt be from the requirements of this section until disconnected from that well. Upon termination of the exemption, the potable water plumbing system on the property shall be hooked-up to the county water system and shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) Property used for residential purposes on January 1, 1997, may be exempted from the requirements of this section on the following conditions:

a. The property owner must make an application on forms provided by the county.

b. The application shall include, at a minimum, the following information and documentation:

1. The name and address of the applicant.

2. The address of the property for which the exemption is sought.

3. The reason the exemption is sought.

4. Documentation establishing that the same well has been the source of potable water used in the potable water plumbing system on the property since January 1, 1997.

5. Test results establishing that the water from the well to be used in the potable water plumbing system on the property meets Florida Department of Environmental Protection standards for potable water for human consumption.

6. Documentation establishing that the owner and all other occupants of the residential property are, for the twelve months preceding the application, "low-income persons" as that term is defined in F.S. § 420.9071.

c. The application for exemption shall be filed with the county engineer prior to the date the plumbing system on the property is hooked-up to the county water system.

d. The county engineer shall review the application and determine whether the property is exempt from the requirements of this section.

e. The exemption, if granted, shall expire upon change of ownership of the property or the water from the well servicing the property, without treatment, failing to meet potable water standards established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, whichever occurs first.

f. Upon termination of the exemption, the potable water plumbing system on the property shall be hooked-up to the county water system and shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

g. Any person who is denied an exemption or whose exemption is revoked shall have a right of appeal to the board. Such notice of appeal shall be filed with the county administrator within 30 days of notification of the denial or revocation of the exemption. Failure to file such appeal shall be deemed to be a waiver of the right. The board shall review the denial or revocation within 60 days of the filing of the appeal.

(e) *Penalties.* Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or by imprisonment not to exceed 60 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment for each offense.

(f) *Injunctive relief.* The provisions of this section may be enforced by the injunctive powers of any court of competent jurisdiction and such injunction may be prohibitory or mandatory as the circumstances warrant.

(Ord. No. 97-05, § 1, 2-25-97; Ord. No. 98-1, § 1)

**SECTION 3. Amendment.** Article III of Chapter 11.5 of the Code of Ordinances, Highlands County, Florida, is amended and adopted to read as follows:

### **ARTICLE III. SEWER SYSTEM**

#### **Section 11.5-50. Policies.**

- (1) *Requests for service.* Services will be provided as follows:
  - a. *Service outside the designated areas.* The decision of whether or not to provide service outside the areas described in this subsection will be based on the availability of sewer treatment, sufficiency of reserve capacity to support the existing system, the economics of the extension of service, and other related factors. The initial analysis shall be made by the County Engineer. If the analysis indicates any unusual impact on the system, the application will be referred to the County Administrator. The County Administrator may approve or disapprove the application.
  - b. *Service within the Tomoka Heights subdivision.* All applicants for service within the Tomoka Heights subdivision will be approved contingent upon payment of the appropriate fees and charges.
- (2) *Supply facilities.* The County shall own and maintain all sewer supply facilities whether on public property or within easements on private property. The County may allow an owner or developer to install the sewer lines, in accordance with County approved plans and specifications, at the County's discretion.
- (3) *Initial Payments.* Customers are required to pay, in advance, the impact fee and tap-in charge.
- (4) *Interceptors.* The following interceptors shall be installed within the private sewer system of commercial establishments prior to the connection with the County's sewer system or if a problem is detected on an existing service that warrants the installation of the necessary interceptor as determined by the County Engineer.
  - a. *Grease Interceptor.* Grease interceptors shall be installed in the waste line leading from the sinks, drains or other fixtures within restaurants, hotel kitchens, cafeterias, bars, clubs or other uses where grease can be introduced into the sewer system.
  - b. *Oil Separator.* Oil separator shall be installed in the sewer/drain system where a hazard exists or where oils or other flammables can be introduced into the sewer system by accident or otherwise.
  - c. *Other interceptors.* Commercial establishments with laundry facilities and commercial laundries shall be equipped with an interceptor having a

removable basket or similar device that will prevent strings, rags, buttons or other materials from passing into the County's sewer system.

- (5) *Maintenance of plumbing system.* The owner of the property shall be responsible for maintaining and keeping clean the sewer pipe from the Owner's plumbing system within a structure to the connection within the main sewers or manhole.
- (6) *Failure to maintain plumbing system.* Failure to keep the sewer pipe, and interceptors, i.e. the pipe from the plumbing system to the main sewers or manhole, clean and maintained in a proper manner shall give the County the right to:
  - a. Assess a daily fine of: .....\$100.00
  - b. After 30 days, the water service may be disconnected. Fines will continue to be levied until the sewer pipe and interceptors have been properly maintained by the owner of the property, and inspected, and approved by the Utility.

(Ord. No. 00-28, § 3)

**Section 11.5-51. Fees and charges.**

**Refer to the Appendix of this document for the current rate schedule**

The following fees and charges shall be in effect until amended:

- (1) *Residential/commercial tap-in sewer charges.*

Meter Size (Inches)	Charge per Connection
¾ and smaller	\$180.00
1	\$210.00
1½	\$305.00
2	\$455.00
3	\$605.00
4	\$760.00
6	\$1,015.00
8	\$1,360.00

(2) *Residential sewer use charges.*

Unless otherwise amended, the following residential sewer use charges shall remain in effect through the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and each fiscal year thereafter shall be increased by the percent change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the last twelve (12) months not to exceed three (3) percent per annum. The County Engineer shall review the revenue requirements of the utility beginning in March of 2002, and every year thereafter. If upon evaluation by the County Engineer, the CPI adjustment is not required for the fiscal year beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, the County Engineer may recommend to the Board of County Commissioners not to adjust the rates for that year.

**Refer to the Appendix of this document for the current rate schedule**

Base Rate (Monthly)	Additional Cost per 1,000 Gallons
\$12.00	\$2.70

(3) *Residential sewer impact fee schedule.*

12/01/97	\$2,793.00
06/01/98	\$2,882.00
12/01/98	\$2,973.00
06/01/99	\$3,068.00
12/01/99	\$3,165.00
06/01/00	\$3,265.00
12/01/00	\$3,429.00
06/01/01	\$3,526.00
12/01/01	\$3,636.00
06/01/02	\$3,750.00
12/01/02	\$3,868.00
06/01/03	\$3,989.00
12/01/03	\$4,114.00
06/01/04	\$4,243.00
12/01/04	\$4,376.00

One ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) = 275 gal per/ household

(4) *Commercial sewer impact fee*

Daily Usage (GPD) ÷ 275 Gallons = Number of ERU's

Number of ERU's x Residential sewer impact schedule =  
Commercial/industrial sewer impact fee

(5) *Commercial sewer use charges.*

Unless otherwise amended, the following commercial sewer use charges shall remain in effect through the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and each fiscal year thereafter shall be increased by the percent change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the last twelve (12) months not to exceed three (3) percent per annum. The County Engineer shall review the revenue requirements of the utility beginning in March of 2002, and every year thereafter. If upon evaluation by the County Engineer, the CPI adjustment is not required for the fiscal year beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, the County Engineer may recommend to the Board of County Commissioners not to adjust the rates for that year.

**Refer to the Appendix of this document for the current rate schedule**

Rate per 1,000/gallon:.....	\$6.30
Monthly minimum commercial charge: .....	\$25.00
Base Rate: .....	\$12.00

(Ord. No. 94-12, § 3; Ord. No. 98-07, § 2); Ord. No. 00-28, § 3)

**SECTION 4. Conflict**

Any ordinance or part thereof in conflict with this Ordinance or any part hereof is hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

**SECTION 5. Severability**

The sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection or section of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, unconstitutional or unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections, and sections of this Ordinance.

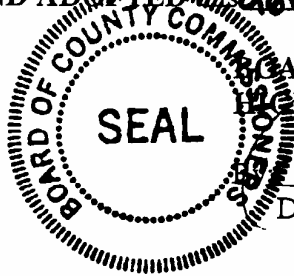
**SECTION 6. Inclusion in Code**

When the text of this Ordinance is published for inclusion in the Code of Ordinances, Highlands County, Florida, the text marked for deletion by strike-through text shall be deleted and the additions appearing as underlined text shall be added so that the text of the Code shall be as amended rather than in the legislative format used in this Ordinance to highlight the changes being made.

**SECTION 7. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect October 1, 2000.

DONE AND ADOPTED this 26th day of Sept., 2000.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

David W. Flowers  
David W. Flowers, Chairperson

ATTEST:

By: L.E. "Luke" Brooker  
L.E. "Luke" Brooker, Clerk

G:\Utilities\Placid Utilities\Ordinance\2000 Ordinance\2000 revisions to ordinance.wpd

# APPENDIX 2008

The following rate schedule was approved by the County Engineer according to the provisions made in the Utility Ordinance approved by the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners on September 26, 2000

**These rates reflect a 3.00% increase above the rate schedule approved in 2007**

## PLACID UTILITIES/HIGHWAY PARK Revised October 2008 - CPI 3.00% FEE SCHEDULE

### WATER - RESIDENTIAL

#### Meter Setting Charge

<u>Meter Size</u> <u>(inches)</u>	<u>Charge</u> <u>Per meter</u>
5/8 X 3/4 .....	\$ 850.00
1.....	950.00
1 2 .....	1,215.00
2.....	2,280.00
3.....	5,035.00
4.....	9,025.00
6.....	19,990.00
8.....	22,300.00

**Water Impact Fee .....** \$ 750.00

For master metering of multiple units the impact fee will be multiplied by the number of apartments, condominium units, or single family homes.

**Deposit.....** \$ 50.00

#### Water Use Charge

<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1 - 3000 .....	3.84 /per 1000
3001 - 6000 .....	3.84 /per 1000
6001 - 9000 .....	4.02 /per 1000
9001 - 12000 .....	4.20 /per 1000
12001 - 15000 .....	4.38 /per 1000
15001 - 18000 .....	4.56 /per 1000
18001 - 21000 .....	4.74 /per 1000
21001 - 24000 .....	4.92 /per 1000
24001 - up .....	5.10/ per 1000

# APPENDIX 2008

## Water Use Base Rate

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Monthly Charge</u>
3/4" .....	\$ 13.19
1" .....	14.05
1 2@.....	16.36
2" .....	18.60
3" .....	26.34
4" .....	31.40
6" .....	35.36
8" .....	41.96

### General Utility/Connect/Disconnect Fees Residential & Commercial

Connect .....	\$ 40.00
Nonpayment Reconnect .....	50.00
Temporary Short Term Connect .....	15.00
Temporary Short Term Disconnect .....	15.00
Water Use for Temporary Service .....	5.10
Temporary Disconnect.....	35.00
Reconnect Service.....	35.00
Connect/Disconnect .....	5.00
(Multiple Meters)	
Meter testing .....	15.00
After Hours Fee.....	10.00
Returned Checks(Less than \$50.00) .....	\$25.00
(\$50.00 - \$300.00) .....	30.00
(\$300.00 +) 5% of face value or .....	40.00

Payment will be delinquent 20 days after the mailing date.

Late Charges are posted after the delinquency date. Penalty equals 1.5% of the balance past due (\$30.00 minimum).

# APPENDIX 2008

## WATER - COMMERCIAL Service Installation

<u>Meter Size</u> <u>(inches)</u>	<u>Charge</u> <u>Per meter</u>
5/8 X 3/4" .....	\$ 850.00
1" .....	950.00
1 2@ .....	1,215.00
2" .....	2,280.00
3" .....	5,035.00
4" .....	9,025.00
6" .....	19,990.00
8" .....	22,300.00

**Water Impact Fee** .....\$ 750.00

Fees will be based on Equivalent Residential Units (ERU=s)  
One ERU = 275 gallons per household

The daily usage will be determined by the developer=s engineer or architect based on current usage tables. The water impact fee is determined as follows:

Daily Usage (GPD ) 275 gallons = Number of ERU=s  
Number of ERU=s X \$700.00 = Commercial Industrial water impact fee.

### Deposit

Regular Commercial - twice the highest estimated monthly bill

Commercial Master Meter - \$50.00 plus \$50 for each unit serviced or twice the highest estimated monthly bill, whichever is greater.

### Water Use Charge

<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1 - 3000 .....	3.84 /per 1000
3001 - 6000 .....	3.84 /per 1000
6001 - 9000 .....	4.02 /per 1000
9001 - 12000 .....	4.20 /per 1000
12001 - 15000 .....	4.38 /per 1000
15001 - 18000 .....	4.56 /per 1000
18001 - 21000 .....	4.74 /per 1000
21001 - 24000 .....	4.92 /per 1000
24001 - up .....	5.10/ per 1000

**MINIMUM COMMERCIAL CHARGE (PER MONTH)** .....\$25.00

# APPENDIX 2008

## Water Use Base Rate

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Monthly Charge</u>
3/4" .....	\$ 13.19
1" .....	14.05
1 2@.....	16.36
2" .....	18.60
3" .....	26.34
4" .....	31.40
6" .....	35.36
8" .....	41.96

## SEWER RESIDENTIAL

### Service Installation/Tap-In

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Charge Per Connection</u>
3/4" .....	\$180.00
1.0" .....	\$210.00
1.5" .....	\$305.00
2.0" .....	\$455.00
3.0" .....	\$605.00
4.0" .....	\$760.00
6.0" .....	1,015.00
8.0" .....	1,360.00

### Sewer Use Charges

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Base Rate</u>	<u>Additional</u>
		<u>per 1000 gallon</u>
	\$ 14.39.....	\$3.23

# APPENDIX 2008

## Sewer Impact Fee-

to 12/01/00 .....	\$3,429.00
to 06/01/01 .....	\$3,526.00
to 12/01/01 .....	\$3,636.00
to 06/01/02 .....	\$3,750.00
to 12/01/02 .....	\$3,868.00
to 06/01/03 .....	\$3,989.00
to 12/01/03 .....	\$4,114.00
to 06/01/04 .....	\$4,243.00
to 12/01/04 .....	\$4,376.00

## SEWER COMMERCIAL

### Service Installation/Tap-In

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Charge Per Connection</u>
3/4" .....	\$180.00
1.0" .....	\$210.00
1.5" .....	\$305.00
2.0" .....	\$455.00
3.0" .....	\$605.00
4.0" .....	\$760.00
6.0" .....	1,015.00
8.0" .....	1,360.00

### Sewer Use Charges

90% of monthly commercial water bill, but not less than \$25.00 per month.  
Commercial/Industrial Impact Fees

### Sewer Impact Fee

ERU x Residential Sewer Impact Fee  
(1 ERU = 275 G.P.D.)

### Sewer Use Charges

<u>Base Rate</u>	<u>Additional Cost per 1000 gallon</u>
\$ 14.39.....	\$7.56
Minimum Commercial Charge .....	\$25.00