

## **ORDINANCE #44: ILLEGAL ACQUISITION OF UTILITY SERVICES AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**

### **44.1 Scope**

Be it ordained by the Common Council of the Village of Beech Bottom, that no person may with the intent to defraud, steal, procure, make or cause to be made, any pipe, tube and connect the same, or cause it to be connected with any main, service pipe or other pipe for conducting or supplying water, operating in the municipality, in such a manner as to supply water which is consumed, without passing through a utility meter provided for measuring and registering the quantity of water consumed, or in any other manner so as to evade payment for the water consumed.

### **44.2 Prohibition of Alteration and Damage**

No person may intentionally alter or damage any water meter, curb box, or obstruct its action unless the person is authorized to do so by the utility company or provider and unless it is necessary to protect property or life.

### **44.3 Penalty**

Any violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall constitute the commission of a misdemeanor criminal offense, upon conviction shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or confined in the regional jail for not more than one (1) year, or both fined and imprisoned.

In addition to any fine or imprisonment imposed by this article, any person found guilty of violating this ordinance shall be ordered to pay restitution for the value of the services consumed and the damage to any utility meter, curb box or property resulting from the violation.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: October 4, 2016

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: October 18, 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: WAIVED

Ordinance passed & in effect: October 18, 2016