

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF SECOR REGARDING LEINS FOR WATER SERVICE UPON REAL ESTATE, PENALTIES FOR DELINQUENT WATER BILL PAYMENTS, RECONNECTION FEE FOR REINSTATEMENT, AND ADDITIONAL TURN-ONS.

WHEREAS, the Village Board has experienced that although most individuals pay their water bills timely, certain individuals are repeatedly delinquent in the payment of their bills for water service; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board hereby finds that it is in the best interests of the Village to revise and combine prior ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board now seeks to amend outdated ordinance language and establish updated guidelines for water service in the Village;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Secor, Woodford County, Illinois that:

SECTION 1. The owner of the premises, occupant thereof, and user of the water supply system shall be jointly and severally liable to pay for the services on said premises, and the services are furnished to the premises by the Village of Secor only upon the condition that the owner of the premises, occupant thereof, and user of the services are jointly liable therefore to the Village.

SECTION 2. New Water Service Accounts:

1. When setting up a new account for a water customer or a reconnected water customer, the water customer shall be required to pay the Village a two hundred dollar (\$200.00) deposit before receiving water service from the Village for the water customer's premises.
2. If the water customer sells or transfers the premises to a third party, moves from the premises, or otherwise voluntarily terminates water service, the water service fees or charges exist for the water customer's account when seeking a refund of the deposit, all such fees and charges shall be deducted from the deposit for payment to the village of such fees and charges.
3. No interest shall accrue or be payable to the account holder on the deposit funds being held by the Village.
4. In no case will this deposit be refunded to a water customer when water service to the water customer's premises has been shut off or terminated for non-payment or delinquent payment of water service fees or charges, and any claim to the deposit shall be forfeited by the water customer when water services has been shut off or terminated for non-payment or delinquent payment for any amount owing for water service fees and charges.

SECTION 3. Collection Procedures:

1. Any water customer who fails to remit payment in full of the water fees billed by the specified fifteenth (15th) day of each month following receipt of their water bill(s) shall incur a penalty of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each occurrence, which will be added to that water bill.
2. If any water bill is not paid in a timely manner for two (2) consecutive billing cycles, that customer shall have their water service terminated without further notice.
3. All customers who fail to pay their full bill for water service by the specified fifteenth (15th) day of the month shall be issued a Notice Of Disconnection. Said notice shall also advise the customer that an appeal may be made to the Village Board to challenge the validity of the charges, to request an abatement of the charges, or to seek relief from the pending disconnection. Said notice of appeal must be in writing, directed to the President or to his designee, be delivered to the President or his designee within five (5) days of the Notice of Disconnection, and state the reason or grounds for which relief is sought.
4. Five (5) days after a Notice of Disconnection has been issued, any customer who has not paid all outstanding charges shall be disconnected from water service.
5. The President, or his designee, upon receipt of Notice of Appeal, shall stay the disconnection of water services until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Board. The President shall not stay the disconnection of services if the Village Board has authorized the disconnection of services, or if the Village Board, having been advised of a stay issued by the President, declines to extend the stay.
6. The Village Board shall review any stay of disconnection of services and may, in its discretion, extend any stay issued by the President. Failure of the Board to take action upon a stay shall cause that stay to automatically be lifted.
7. The Village Board may require, as a condition to extend the extension of a stay, that the customer post security in an amount acceptable to the Board. This security shall not be used for current charges for the customer's water service, but shall be used to pay delinquent charges after a customer's water service has been disconnected. Any unused security shall be returned to the customer when the customer has permanently discontinued water service with the Village and has paid all outstanding water charges, or upon the direction of the Board.

SECTION 4. Reconnection:

1. Any water service which has been terminated for non-payment will not be reinstated until all fees, including all past and current water bills, and a fifty dollar (\$50.00) reconnection fee have been remitted.

SECTION 5. Leins:

1. If a water customer fails to remit payment in full subsequent to the termination of service, a lien may be placed upon that person's property and filed with the Woodford County Clerk.
2. If the water service customer whose bill is unpaid is not the owner of the premises to which service has been provided; the Village Clerk shall notify the owner of such premises of the circumstances regarding non-payment of water service within ten (10) working days. If such customer should fail to remit payment and subsequently depart such premises, the owner of said premises shall be liable for payment, and a lien may be placed upon the property and filed with the Woodford County Clerk.
3. The failure of the Clerk to record such liens or to mail such notices, or the failure of the owner to receive such notice, shall not affect the right to foreclose the lien for unpaid water service bills.
4. Property upon which a lien has been placed may be sold for nonpayment of services and the proceeds of such sale shall be applied to the delinquent charges.

SECTION 6: Returned Check Policy:

1. If the charges for the water bill are not paid due to a check returned by the bank for non-payment for any reason, a notice of the returned check will be sent informing the customer of the dishonored check.
2. A twenty five dollar (\$25.00) returned check fee will be added to the water bill.
3. If the bill remains unpaid due to the returned check, normal collection procedures will be utilized as outlined in Section 3.
4. If the charges for a delinquent account are not paid due to a returned check by the bank for non-payment for any reason, water service will be disconnected immediately without notice being sent.

SECTION 7. A properly certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed by the Village Clerk in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Woodford County, and shall be deemed notice to all owners, occupants, and users of premises supplied by the Village Water System.

SECTION 8. All ordinances, resolutions, orders, or parts thereof which conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, including but not limited to Ordinance No. 144, Ordinance No. 82-3, Ordinance No. 84-1, Ordinance No. 99-10, Ordinance No. 2000-5, Ordinance No. 2016-1, and Ordinance No. 2022-06, to the extent of such conflict, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Secor this 10th Day of November, 2025



Linda Breyer
Clerk, Village of Secor, Illinois

APPROVED November 10th, 2025



[Redacted]
President, Board of Trustee