

CHAPTER 17

GAS SYSTEM

ARTICLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

17-1-1 APPLICATION FOR SERVICE CONNECTION. Any person, firm or corporation desiring to make a gas tap or service connection with the Natural Gas System of the Village shall file a written application therefor in the office of the Manager of Utilities upon blank forms to be provided for such purpose, signed by the owner of the property for which such tap or service connection is desired or by a duly authorized agent of such owner. Such application shall be accompanied by payment of the fee thereafter prescribed to cover the cost of such service connection.

In the event such application is made by an agent of the owner, then such application shall also be accompanied by the written authority of such owner to said agent for the making of the application. Where service lines are laid on private property, an easement shall be executed by the owner thereof providing for the installation and maintenance of the proposed service lines to be installed and maintained by the Village and for the extension along or across such property for making other service connections from the same service line.

Upon the filing of such application with the intent to immediately use gas, if the same is in the proper form and the cost advanced as herein required, an order for the installation of service pipe, tap, meter and service connections will be issued to the officer or employee(s) of the Village having charge of such work whose duty it shall be to make such installation and connection without unnecessary delay and to return such order immediately upon completion of the work with an endorsement thereof signed by such officer or employee showing the date, place and manner in which such tap or service connection was made and an itemized statement of the cost thereof. All applications and the orders and reports issued and returned thereon shall be appropriately numbered and kept on file in the Manager of Utilities' office as a permanent record. The service line shall not be installed more than **sixty (60) days** prior to its use for service.

17-1-2 SERVICE CONNECTIONS. The Village shall make all connections to gas mains, install all service lines, and provide the meter and all labor and materials (at property owner's expense) necessary for said installation. Service line installation shall be completed in a workman like manner.

(A) The final tie-in for the gas line to the outlet side of the meter shall be the property owner's responsibility and must be completed in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the National Fire Protection Association's most recent edition of NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code, which is incorporated by reference and made a part hereof to the same extent as if fully set forth herein.

(B) All customer piping and necessary venting of appliances shall be in accordance with guidelines set forth in the National Fire Protection Association's most recent edition of NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code, as incorporated and made a part of Subsection (A) above.

17-1-3 FILING OF APPLICATION. The applicant shall file an application for gas with the Manager stating the equipment to be connected and shall refile when future equipment is added, showing all equipment installed or proposed.

17-1-4 SPECIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE CONNECTIONS. All gas service connections made to the gas mains of the Village distribution system shall be substantially as follows:

(A) The connection at the main shall consist of a service tee for **three-fourth (3/4) inch** coated steel pipe. The service lines shall be of the same and shall be laid a minimum of **twenty-four (24) inches** below the ground surface. Approximately **one (1) foot** above the ground at or near the building it will be serviced with a gas cock. Prior to tapping the main for gas service, the service line shall be tested for pressure which should be **one hundred (100) pounds**. The regulator and meters shall be

capable of handling a sufficient volume of gas to service the needs of the customer. All material and construction procedure shall conform to the latest standards of the **American Gas Association, National Board of Fire Underwriters, Department of Transportation and the Illinois Commerce Commission.**

(B) Wherever it is necessary for service lines to cross under high-type pavements, the service line shall be installed by boring or jacking the service line through underneath the pavement to **six (6) feet** beyond the edge of the pavement.

(C) All lines and fittings shall be capable of withstanding a working pressure of not less than **one hundred twenty-five (125) pounds** per square inch and shall be so rated by the manufacturer. One fitting of the meter swivel shall be insulated.

(D) Where gas consumption will be in excess of the capacity of the above specifications, service connections shall be made in the manner specified by the Engineer or Manager.

17-1-5 SERVICE SHALL BE METERED. All gas service shall be metered with a meter of adequate size to measure the amount of gas consumed. Meters shall be of the positive type and shall be **American Gas Association** approved. All meters shall be so placed and installed as to render the same accessible at all times for the purpose of reading and repairing. All meters shall be set outside of the buildings. Indoor installation is prohibited. Where the gas main is located adjacent to the rear of the houses, meters will be located at the rear side of the house or on either side of the house.

17-1-6 INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES CONNECTED WITH THE SYSTEM. At all reasonable hours, meters, regulators, fittings, fixtures and appurtenances connected with the system and located on private property shall be open for inspection by the proper officers and employees of the Village. Any part found to be defective or not in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter shall be immediately repaired or corrected. Service may be discontinued at any time when conditions of the privately-owned facilities create danger or hazard.

17-1-7 METER READING CONCLUSIVE. All gas customers shall be liable for the gas consumption as shown by the meter. Waste, leakage or other causes are not the liability of the Village and shall be included under the customer's liability. The meter reading shall be conclusive provided that whenever the Village shall find any meter not registering, then an average bill may be rendered based at the option of the Village on either the nearest previous **three (3) month** average use when the meter was in good order or based on the same month or months of the preceding year. Whenever the Village shall have reason to believe that the meter is not registering correctly, then an average bill should prove to be incorrectly estimated either by actual testing or by actual gas consumption after being replaced by a corrected meter, then such bill shall be compared to the same.

17-1-8 TEST OF METERS. Any consumer may request the Village to make a test of the accuracy of the meter then in use on their premises. Such tests will be made by the Village without charge, provided that the meter has not been tested within **two (2) years** preceding such a request. In case a consumer requests an accuracy test of a meter which has been previously tested within **two (2) years**, the consumer shall be required to make a test deposit to the Village in the sum of **Five Dollars (\$5.00)** to cover the cost of removing, testing and replacing such meter.

In the event such meter is found, by testing, to register incorrectly at full capacity by more than **two percent (2%)**, then another accurate meter shall be substituted and the test deposit shall be refunded. Past gas bills shall be adjusted by refund or credit of such percentage of the amount of the gas bills for a period of not more than **two (2) months** prior to such test.

In the event the meter is found to be registering correctly, the consumer shall forfeit the test deposit and such funds shall be deposited in the Gas Operating Fund of the Village.

17-1-9 SEPARATE METERS. A person, firm or corporation shall connect any gas service pipe or transmit gas supplied by the Natural Gas System of the Village into **two (2)** distinct premises from **one (1) meter**. Apartment buildings having separate dwelling units will be serviced with individual meters for each unit. Duplex dwellings shall be serviced from individual meters, provided, however, that the Village Board shall have the right to establish special services or service connections as may be necessary for large users.

17-1-10 DAMAGE OF VILLAGE-OWNED EQUIPMENT. Whenever a meter, regulator or other equipment of a service connection which has been installed by the Village is found to have been damaged for any cause whatsoever, such damages shall become the liability of the customer who shall pay the Village the actual cost of removal, repairing and/or replacing of such damaged equipment. In the event such damage has caused inaccurate metering, then such gas bills shall be corrected in the manner previously provided for herein to cover such period that the meter was out of order.

17-1-11 GAS RATE SCHEDULE. Gas supplied through meters shall be at the following rates and paid to the Village on or before the **last day** of the month in which due, provided, if such rates are not paid on or before such date a penalty of **ten percent (10%)** shall be added thereto and provided further that if such rates remain unpaid on the **last day** of the month in which due, there will be a rehook-up fee of **Five Dollars (\$5.00)** for service fees.

NATURAL GAS RATES

For the first 500 cu. ft. per month or less	\$9.79 per MCF
For the next 19,500 cu. ft. per month	\$7.79 per MCF
All over 20,000 cu. ft.	\$7.57 per MCF

The term MCF shall mean **one thousand (1,000)** cubic feet.

The above stated rates are hereby made subject to periodic adjustment based upon the wholesale price of natural gas charged the Village of Bethany. Said adjustment shall be designated as the "Adder" and said Adder shall be the amount of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the difference in the wholesale cost of the natural gas to the Village of Bethany and the cost of such gas at a price of **Three Dollars (\$3.00)** per MCF. The amount of such Adder shall be added to the bill to each customer as computed by the above rates.

Provided, however, that the minimum charge for each residential user per meter shall be **Seven Dollars (\$7.00)** per month and for each commercial user per meter shall be **Twelve Dollars (\$12.00)** per meter; and provided further that such minimum charges shall be deemed to be service charges and shall be charged and collected whether natural gas is used or not. Utility taxes imposed by the State of Illinois shall be in addition to the rates set forth above.

Gas service to a residential user shall in no event be disconnected for non-payment of bills when the National Weather Service forecast for the following **forty-eight (48) hours** forecasts the temperature to be **thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit (32°F)** or below during the holiday or weekend.

17-1-12 PROPERTY OWNER LIABLE. The property owner shall be held liable for all charges left unpaid by any tenant where the property owner has countersigned the application for service on the premises and the Village reserves the right to shut off any gas service where the delinquent charges are not paid for by the owner; provided, however, the property owner shall be liable only for the installation and connection charges when he has signed the application only for such purposes.

17-1-13 SERVICE DISCONTINUED AND RENEWAL.

(A) The Village reserves the right to discontinue gas service to any premises on account of nonpayment of any charges, or where the owner or tenant of such premises has been found guilty of a violation of any of the provisions of this Code, including the following:

- (1) For repairs or because of leaks.
- (2) For nonpayment of any bill due.
- (3) For failure to provide or increase proper security.
- (4) For fraudulent representation in relation to the consumption of gas.
- (5) Removal of customer from the premises.
- (6) For fraudulent tampering with the meter or connections or for the use of gas through rubber hose or other unsafe appliances.
- (7) For shortage of gas or reason of safety.
- (8) For larceny of gas.
- (9) For any action by the customer to secure gas through his meter for any purpose other than those contracted for or for any other party without the written consent of the Village.

(B) When such service is discontinued and the gas is shut off or stopped, whether by the Village or at the request of the property owner, the gas shall not again be turned on or supplied to such premises until all such delinquent charges due the Village have been paid and there is no existing default or violation of any of the provisions of the several sections of this Chapter.

(C) A written application shall be filed with the Manager for the renewal of such gas service, which application shall be accompanied by a fee specified in **Chapter 38, Section 38-2-1** to pay for the shutting off and turning on of the gas supply provided. However, if the gas was shut off and there were delinquent charges or violations of the provisions of this Chapter, such charge for the renewal of the gas service shall be **Five Dollars (\$5.00)**.

(D) No customer shall be permitted to use the stopcock of the service connection for shutting off gas while making extensions, additions or repairs to the pipe or equipment on the premises. Such shutoff or discontinuance or interruption of service will be made only by the Village or its properly authorized employees.

17-1-14 RESALE OF GAS. The customer shall not sell gas passing through his meter to another person, nor shall he use any appliance or device which will in any way modify or disturb the even pressure of other customers in his locality.

17-1-15 GAS PIPING CHANGES. The Village shall be notified of any change or alterations, remodeling or reconstruction affecting gas piping in any building, house or grounds.

17-1-16 INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE.

(A) The Village shall have the right to shut off the supply of gas whenever it is necessary to make repairs, improvements, enforce rules or for any operating reason. In all cases where possible, a reasonable notice of the circumstances will be given to the customers, but in an emergency, the gas may be shut off without notice. Such necessary repairs or work will be made by the Village as rapidly as may be practical. The Village shall not be held responsible or liable because of any shutoff or discontinuance of service for any direct or resultant damages to any person, company or customer.

(B) In the event of such discontinuance of gas service, the Village will make every attempt to safeguard the customer and service shall not be renewed until the Village authorities have purged the lines and put into service all automatic controls and pilots. The cost of purging of lines, relighting pilots, and checking automatic controls will be borne by the Village and the customer will not be liable for any portion thereof. Where the nature of the customer's operations are such that an interruption of service might create a hazard or large economic loss, such customer shall provide facilities for standby service if desired.

(C) Whenever mains, pipes, service connections or other facilities of the gas system are taken up, shut off or interfered with by reasons of any Village street improvement, the Village will endeavor to maintain service so far as is reasonably possible, but will not be directly or indirectly liable for any interruption, poor pressure or damage of any kind, either to the customers adjacent or to other customers affected thereby. Direct damage to property due to such operations shall be either repaired or replaced by the Village without cost to the consumer.

(D) The Village expressly stipulates with all customers and other persons who may be affected by the discontinuance of service that it will neither insure nor be responsible or liable in any manner for any loss or damages direct or indirect by any reason of any fire or any other cause, and all gas service furnished shall also be conditional upon acts of God, inevitable accidents, fire, strikes, riots, or any other causes.

17-1-17 CONNECTION WITH PRIVATE LINES.

(A) Whenever a connection is made with a private line, such service shall be metered at the point of such connection and the customer requesting such service shall provide a satisfactory location for the placing of such metering devices, regulators and other materials and equipment required. Such private lines shall be subject to the inspection and approval of the Village prior to making the necessary service connections.

(B) The Village shall have the right and option to demand changes, removal or replacement of any pipe, fixtures, or apparatus which is considered to be faulty, inadequate or hazardous, provided, however, that this provision shall not obligate the Village in any way or manner. The Village shall have the right to refuse or to discontinue gas service without notice to its customers if the Village finds any apparatus or appliance in operation which would be detrimental to efficient operation of the existing facilities.

(C) All persons, firms, corporations and customers are strictly forbidden to attach any electrical ground wire to any fixture or piping which is or may be connected to any gas service pipe, meter or main belonging to the Village. The Village will hold the owner of the premises responsible and liable for any damage to its property or injury to the employees of the Village caused by such ground wire. Any and all customers, persons, firms, or corporations shall remove any existing ground wires immediately and if such ground wires are not removed **twenty-four (24) hours** after a written notice to do so, the Village, through its officials, may enter the property and remove such ground wires and the customer shall pay all costs. All questions and complaints shall be made to the Village Gas Department who shall be responsible for the proper investigation. Any disrespectful or unwarranted acts of the Village employees shall be reported immediately. All employees of the Village are strictly forbidden to demand or accept any tips, gratuity, or other personal compensation for any services whatsoever rendered during working hours.

17-1-18 GENERAL REGULATIONS.

(A) All piping shall be the responsibility of the customer from the outlet of the meter. The pipe from the outlet of the meter shall be steel, iron pipe and shall comply with the American Standard for wrought iron and wrought steel pipe, **American Standard Association B36.10-1950 and the Department of Transportation** and shall be of not less than **one (1) inch** inside diameter and shall enter the house wall or be securely fastened to the wall by means of a suitable metal strap or clamp at a point not more than **eighteen (18) inches** from the outlet connection of the meter and if extended along the outside wall, shall be fastened to the wall at intervals sufficient to make the piping rigid throughout. In instances where piping from the meter enters the wall, the opposite end shall be securely fastened so that the pipe will not turn when fittings at the meter are put on. The piping from the meter through or along the wall shall constitute and hereafter be called the **"house pipe manifold"**. The **one (1) inch** manifold will be used where the total hourly demand for gas does not exceed **four hundred (400) cubic feet** of gas per hour. Where the total hourly demand of a building or house is in excess of **four hundred (400) cubic feet** of gas per hour, the Village Gas Department must be consulted for specifications for the house pipe manifold.

(B) From any house pipe manifold, pipe to the various appliances shall be of the same dimensions as the fitting on the appliance where such appliance is designed and approved for natural gas. Where appliances are to be converted from liquefied petroleum gas, pipe from the manifold to the appliance shall be such size as would be approved by the **American Gas Association** for natural gas appliances having the same B.T.U. input rating.

(C) From the house pipe manifold, any appliance pipe may be extended a maximum distance of **sixty (60) lineal feet**. For each **ninety degree (90°) turn** in the appliance pipe, **three (3) feet** shall be deducted from the maximum distance. Threaded brass pipe may be substituted for iron pipe from the manifold to the appliance.

(D) An accessible manual shut-off valve shall be installed in the manifold piping near the pipe entrance in the building being served. A manual shut-off valve shall be provided on the supply line to each appliance and shall be installed upstream of the union or connector and within **six (6) feet** of the appliance it serves. Heating plants and water heaters shall be connected to gas piping with rigid pipe. Gas appliances shall be connected to gas piping with rigid pipe. Listed metal appliance connectors or approved semi-rigid tubing in lengths up to **six (6) feet** on certain appliances, when a flexible connection is necessary, a corrugated brass tubing as certified by A.G.A. may be used to connect this appliance to the rigid piping. When an appliance connector or tubing is used, it shall connect to an outlet in the same room as the appliance. The connector or tubing shall be installed so as to be protected against physical damage. Sweat fitting shall not be used anywhere in the gas system piping. Gas will not be turned on to any house type manifold that has not been tested for leakage.

(E) All gas conversion burners to be installed shall be A.G.A. approved. All heating plants shall be A.G.A. approved and the manufacturer's recommendations for the installation shall be followed.

(F) No conversion burner shall be installed in an old or ineffective furnace or a boiler which is in poor repair. Furnaces must be reset if found to be leaking before installing a conversion burner. Test for leakage shall be with oil of Wintergreen or smoke bomb on any warm air heating plant before installing a conversion burner.

(G) Before connecting a flue or vent connector into any chimney, the chimney shall be examined to ascertain that it is properly constructed, clear, clean and will freely conduct the products of combustion from the gas heating appliance in question to the outer air.

(H) All appliances so designated by the American Gas Association, and the National Board of Fire Underwriters must be vented. No unvented appliance except cook stoves shall be placed in the same room with a gas refrigerator. An approved type vent pipe and draft diverter shall be installed on all gas burning space heating and water heating appliances. The vent pipe shall be installed with not less than **one-half (1/2) inch** riser per foot of horizontal run. General rules for venting as prescribed by the A.G.A. and the N.B.F.U. must be followed.

(I) All positive type catches of firing door shall be eliminated, and a hinge pin and spring shall be installed.

(J) All heating plants of the down draft type shall be vented by connecting a **one (1) inch** black iron pipe from the highest point of the flue passage of the heating plant to the flue pipe. The **one (1) inch** iron pipe shall be welded or screwed into the furnace in a manner to assure no leakage.

(K) A gas shutoff shall be installed in the fuel line directly above the appliance manifold connection. The shutoff shall be plainly marked. Gas pilot line shall be connected to the fuel line ahead of the main shut-off valve.

(L) A high limit control shall be installed on all heating plants. A low water cut-off control shall be installed on all gas fired steam boilers.

(M) All gas burning appliances shall be installed in a location in which the facilities for ventilation permit satisfactory combustion of gas and proper venting under normal conditions of use. The necessary measures shall be taken to ascertain that the above ventilation conditions are present.

(N) Before gas is turned on and made available, it shall be the duty of the Village Gas Department to make a complete inspection of the entire gas system inside a building.

(O) The latest revisions of the following bulletins are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof as and to the extent that they had been fully set forth at length herein, to-wit:

- (1) Standards of the National Board of Fire Underwriters for the "Installation of Gas Piping and Gas Appliances in Buildings" as contained in N.B.F.U. No. 54; and
- (2) "American Standard Installations of Gas Piping and Gas Appliances in Buildings" as published by the American Gas Association, Inc., Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

17-1-19 RULES TO BECOME PART OF THE CONTRACT. All rules and regulations concerning the use of the facilities of the natural gas system of the Village and the consumption of gas therefrom shall become a part of the contract with every gas customer, and every gas customer shall be subject thereto and bound thereby.

17-1-20 EXTENSIONS OF GAS MAINS AND SERVICE. The Village shall not be required to extend service within the Village limits a distance of more than **seventy-five (75) feet** per customer and only when sufficient funds are available in excess of those required for the proper operation of the system. Extension of mains and service outside of the Village limits shall be subject to approval of the Village Board and shall be also subject to all rules and regulations and provisions as provided herein or as may be amended.

Where service is desired when funds for extensions are not available and/or when the distance is in excess of the **seventy-five (75) feet** per customer noted above, such extension can be made if the applicant will deposit with the Village the estimated cost of making the extension, less the **seventy-five (75) feet**.

17-1-21 TAMPERING WITH APPURTENANCES. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or customer to break the seal of any meter or in any manner to make any alterations, changes or repairs on the same or to open any mains, laterals, service pipe, stopcocks, valves, or any part thereof or otherwise tamper with or attempt to do any work on either or any of them without authority of the Village or its properly authorized agent. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Section or who shall willfully or maliciously injure or damage any property connected with the gas system of the Village shall be subject to the penalty hereinafter prescribed.

Any person, firm or corporation desiring to do any construction or gardening in the Village wherein such construction or gardening will penetrate beneath the surface of the ground more than **six (6) inches** must notify the Village prior to any construction or gardening to obtain the location of utilities, including gas, water and sewer, to avoid any damage to the Village property and penalty as provided in **Chapter 1—Administration**.

(Ord. No. 25-851; 04-10-25)