

TALATHA RURAL COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

WATER THEFT POLICY

Date: March 17, 2009

Number: 0007 Rev. 2

It is the desire of the Talatha Rural Community Water Commissioners that all members pay their fair share. Individuals found stealing water from the Talatha Rural Community Water System may be prosecuted if so agreed upon by the Water Commission. Any person found stealing water will have to appear before the Board of Commissioners for a hearing to determine whether or not they will be allowed to reconnect to the Talatha Rural Community Water District system. Theft of water may occur by the methods described below.

1. Water is turned back on by customer/member or other unknown person(s) after being disconnected for non-payment - If this occurs the water service will remain off until the meter owner meets with the chairman or designee. If the water service has been tampered with during this time, the meter will be removed and no service will be reinstated until the Board of Commissioners meets to discuss further actions (which may include legal action, penalties, and fines.)
2. Water is shared from one meter by more than one home or business without the Talatha Rural Community Water District's knowledge - At this time the meter will be turned off and the owner will have to meet with the chairman to explain why this occurred. Service will not be reinstated until the Water Department is certain that the lines have been separated. The Board of Commissioners will determine what, if any, actions will be pursued (these actions may include legal action, penalties, and fines.)
3. Water is taken from fire hydrants - When the Talatha Rural Community Water District becomes aware that water is or has been removed from a fire hydrant, an attempt will be made to locate the parties involved. Once they have been identified, they will be notified that the water district has knowledge of their actions and that all water removal must cease. If their actions continue, legal action will be taken.
4. Straight Piping - This occurs when an individual places a piece of pipe in the meter box where the meter has been removed. When this is found, the meter box will be locked out and the resident will be notified to appear before the Board of Commissioners. If the resident does not respond, then service will be removed from the property and no service will be reinstated until the property owner appears before the Board of Commissioners.
5. Damage/Vandalism to Meter - The member is responsible for malicious damage/vandalism to TRC-owned property/equipment (e.g., meter, meter box, back-flow preventor, lines, and valves). The member will be held liable for repair/replacement costs.

Increasing units in a mobile home park without notifying the Talatha Rural Community Water District - It is the responsibility of the mobile home park operator to notify the water district of changes in the number of units in the mobile home park during the billing month. If the park has an increase or decrease, the owner/operator must notify the Talatha Rural Community Water District within two weeks of the change. If the district is not notified and extra units are found, the water service will be disconnected and the chairman notified. The owner/operator will need to meet with the chairman and fees will be discussed in order for the service to be reinstated. The Board of Commissioners may decide to take further action at its next meeting (which may include legal action, penalties, and fines.)

Approved by TRC Water Commissioners

Date: 03/17/2009