

Ownership responsibility for water and sewer bills

Ohio Revised Code §6103.02 authorizes a board of county commissioners that operates a public water distribution system to establish “reasonable rates, including penalties for late payments, for water supplied to public agencies and persons.” Revised Code §6103.02 provides in part:

When any rates or charges are not paid when due, the board may do any or all of the following:

- (1) Certify the unpaid rates or charges, together with any penalties, to the county auditor. The county auditor shall place the certified amount upon the real property tax list and duplicate against the property served by the connection. The certified amount shall be a lien on the property from the date placed on the real property tax list and duplicate and shall be collected in the same manner as taxes, except that, notwithstanding Section 323.15 of the Revised Code, a county treasurer shall accept a payment in that amount when separately tendered as payment for the full amount of the unpaid rates or charges and associated penalties. The lien shall be released immediately upon payment in full of the certified amount.
- (2) Collect the unpaid rates or charges, together with any penalties, by actions at law in the name of the county from an owner, tenant, or other person or public agency that is liable for the payment of the rates or charges.
- (3) Terminate, in accordance with established rules, the water service to the particular property unless and until the unpaid rates or charges, together with any penalties, are paid in full.

ORC §6103.02 (E) extract