

# ALARM SYSTEM ORDINANCE

## SECTION I

### PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

The purpose of this ordinance is to encourage a reduction in the frequency of false alarms, for the promotion of the public health, safety, and welfare. This ordinance recognizes the need to provide a structure of service fees for false alarms, and to minimize interference with the orderly conduct of police and sheriff services.

**The following definitions shall apply to this ordinance:**

**Alarm System:** Any mechanism or device designed for the detection of all unauthorized entry or other problems upon property and when activated emits an audible, visual, telephonic, electronic or other signal.

**False Alarm:** False alarm is defined as any alarm signal which is not in response to an actual or attempted unauthorized entry upon property requiring an immediate Police response. "False Alarm" includes signals emitted by a negligently activated alarm system, or by an alarm system deliberately activated when an immediate Police response is not required or by a malfunctioning alarm system. However, "False Alarm" does not include signals emitted by an alarm system activated by unusually severe weather conditions or other causes beyond the control of the alarm user. It shall be the burden of the alarm user to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Police that an alarm signal was the result of such extraordinary cause.

## SECTION II

### FALSE ALARM SERVICE FEES

**Penalties:** Any residence, business, or institution that are alarm users, who cause the transmission of a false alarm either telephonically, outside audible, or through panel monitoring, shall pay a service fee of \$50.00 for each false alarm beyond a limit of 4 in a calendar year.

**Collection Notices:** Collection notices will be sent out quarterly.

The Town Manager will request from the Kennebec County Sheriff's Department and the Maine State Police a list of response calls to alarms in Belgrade from which violations will be determined.

**All penalty fees collected will be used to supplement the Food Bank.**

## SECTION III

## **GRACE PERIOD**

Alarm users will be exempt from penalties listed in ordinance for false alarms emitted from an alarm system within the first thirty (30) days from the date of its installation.

## **SECTION IV**

### **SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions shall remain valid.