



TOWN OF SOMERSET
BOARD OF WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONERS

3249 County Street, Somerset, MA 02726
508-679-2731 tel • 508-677-9691 fax

WATER /SEWER ABATEMENT POLICY
“ONE-TIME LIFETIME SEWER ABATEMENT”

Date of Policy: July 30, 2025

Owner-occupied residential property owners (herein referred to as “Applicant”) can request an abatement of a portion of their current water/sewer bill when determined that the metered amount of water is greater than the normal average use previously billed to the current homeowner. The Owner of the property must request this abatement in writing on a form approved by the Town of Somerset Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners. An abatement request must be made within 45 days of receipt of the current water bill. The Board will require that all information requested on the form be provided and that the following be included with the abatement request form:

The Applicant must include a copy of the current water bill for which the request for abatement is being made.

The Applicant must grant a water department employee access to the property to both inspect the water meter and allow the town to download any or all data stored within the water meter.

The Applicant must attach a paid bill from a current Massachusetts licensed plumber which has examined the property and has repaired the leak which caused the higher usage.

No plumber’s bill will be required when it has been determined that the item leaking was from an object installed after the hose bib connection or from an irrigation system which was not supplied through an irrigation meter.

The Applicant must also indicate on the abatement request form that all current taxes and any fees owed to the Town of Somerset have been paid. If a request comes from an owner-occupied residential property serviced outside of the Town of Somerset a copy of the current paid tax bill must be included.

The Applicant must sign the application acknowledging the request and is in agreement that the abatement granted by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners is for “One Time Lifetime Abatement” and any future abatement requests (for the property requested or any future additional properties) will not be granted to the owner-occupied property owners making this request.

Swimming Pool abatement requests may be granted for the filling of a new pool, or if a replacement pool liner is installed provided you meet the following criteria: Property owners who have a new swimming pool or swimming pool liner installed at your residence must submit a copy of the receipt of the pool or pool liner which indicates the residence address and the dimensions of your pool in order to determine its capacity, and the date of purchase for either of these items. The receipt along with the abatement application, and current bill must be submitted to the Somerset Water Department at 3249 County Street, Somerset, MA 02726. Once the capacity of the pool has been determined your sewer bill may be adjusted based on 90% of its capacity.

The applicant must grant an employee of the Somerset Water Department access to the property to inspect the meter and allow the town access to download any or all data stored within the meter.

Any evidence that indicates that the Water Meter serving this property has been tampered with or removed will cause the abatement request to be denied and may result in the water service to this property be curtailed.

The Board will request that the Water Department provide a copy of the data collected from the meter servicing the property and it must clearly indicate the amount of water and the dates in which the leak occurred, the date on which the leak was found, and the date the leak was repaired by a licensed plumber. The abated amount in gallons will be determined by the average water usage used in the immediate period preceding the leak.

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners will only grant abatement requests for the **sewer charge in gallons** which occurred during the period of the recorded leak. The sewer abatement amount will be calculated based on actual readings obtained from the water meter. There will be no abatements for the water charge in gallons used during the leak.

Each abatement request will be taken on its own merit, and the decision by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners will be discussed and if approved granted at a regular scheduled open meeting, at such date and time as indicated on the meeting agenda.

Once the request is voted upon will be recorded by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners.

All abatement requests will be recorded and each year the abatement request amounts in both gallons and dollar amounts, along with the name of the property owner making the request will be included in the Water and Sewer Commissioners financial statements.

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners will not grant any requests for non-owner-occupied residential property, commercial property, or any industrial properties serviced by the Town of Somerset Water and Sewer System.

Approved and signed upon this date: 7-30-2025

Steven Cadorette, Chairman

Joseph Bednarik, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Robert E. Lima, Clerk

Date when this was discovered: _____ Corrected/Repaired Date: _____

How was this repaired and corrected, and by whom: _____

If a plumbing repair was made, please provide the following:

Plumber's Name: _____

Massachusetts Plumbing License #: _____

I certify this abatement request is for an owner-occupied residential property.

I certify I have attached paid receipts as outlined in the "One-Time Lifetime Sewer Abatement Policy" including a copy of my current paid tax bill and any paid receipts to justify this request.

I certify that this repair has been completed and that all necessary and required documentation to be submitted as outlined in the abatement policy has been attached, and is factual and true.

I certify that this is my first and only request for an abatement and I understand that if this "One-Time Lifetime Abatement" is granted to me, I will not be eligible for any future abatement requests.

Subscribed this Date: _____

Signature of Owner-Occupied Residential Property Owner: _____

----- **DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE** -----

Board Action: APPROVED NOT APPROVED DATE: _____

Sewer Amount to be abated: _____ Gallons Amount \$ _____

Board Chairman _____

Board Vice-Chairman _____

Board Clerk _____