



OFFICE OF  
THE BOARD OF

# Water & Sewer Commissioners

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## TOWN OF SOMERSET WATER DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules shall be considered a part of the service contract with every person who takes water, and the signing of the application for water service shall be considered as expressing assent on the part of the taker to be bound thereby. In addition to the conditions noted herein, installation of water works shall comply with the latest revision of the Somerset Water Department's Standard Specifications and Details for the Installation of Water Mains and Appearances.

1. Application for water service must be made to the Water Department upon the form prescribed, and is to be signed by the owner of the premises or his/her duly authorized agent. Properties must meet the following conditions:
  - 1a. The property must have frontage on a street in the Town of Somerset with a water main in it. \*
  - 1b. The property must be eligible for and received sewer service from the Town of Somerset Water Pollution Control Department. \*
  - 1c. If such a water service connection is approved, the property owner must pay connections fee and assessments as determined by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, as well as *quarterly* water and sewerage charges based on the metered water consumption for the property.
  - 1d. The property owner must obtain all required approval from the other Town.

**\*NOTE:** This policy shall not apply to properties that are presently the subject of a duly approved inter-municipal agreement or other statutory authority. It shall also not apply to properties with an existing service lateral to the property line or which front on a Somerset water line located within the boundaries of another Town.

2. On all accepted streets with mains installed within the Town of Somerset, the Water Department shall in all cases lay, repair and own services from the street corporation valve to the street layout line including the curb stop. The connection fee shall pay for the cost of services up to and including one inch diameter installed by the Town within the limits of the street. The cost of laying and repairing services outside the street line including all excavation, labor, piping and valving shall be owned and be borne by the property owner.
3. All services will be metered. A 5/8" through 4" meter will be furnished at the expense of the Water Department. When meters larger than 4" are required, they shall be paid for by the taker. The cost of ordinary care and repairs of all primary meters will be borne by the Water Department. The cost of unusual repairs (necessitated by freezing, hot water, etc.), due or attributable to, any carelessness or neglect on the part of the consumer, shall be borne by the consumer or property owner.
4. The Water Department and their agents shall have free access at all reasonable times and hours to all parts of the customer's building(s) or premises of any water taker for the purpose of installing, testing, removing, repairing, or reading meters, or to examine the water pipes and their appurtenances and the manner of their use.
5. The Water Department reserves the right at all times to shut off the water temporarily without notice (although it is intended to give such notice when possible) for necessary repairs, extensions, alterations, or other necessary work, for non-payment of bills, or for neglect or refusal to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Board. Neither the Town, nor the Water Department, nor their agents or servants, are responsible for any customer damages resulting from shutting off or turning water on.
6. No plumber or any other person except the Superintendent of the Water Department and his authorized agents, shall connect with any Town main or service pipe, or any private main under control of the Water Department, except on the taker's side of the meter; nor shall any plumber or any other person turn on or shut off the water from any service pipe connected to such water mains or from any pipe, hydrant or other water fixture where the curb stop or valve is not located on their own premises.
7. No person shall take or carry away Town Water from any public hydrant, watering tank, or fountain without the consent of the Superintendent, or after such consent has been withdrawn.
8. Town water shall not be supplied to any premises where the pipes used to convey or distribute the same are so connected, directly or indirectly, with any supplementary or secondary system as to receive a possible water supply from any source other than that furnished by the Town system.

8a. Any private fire protection system using water from wells, streams or any source other than the Town supply shall be at all times kept entirely separate from any possible connection with the Town system.

8b. All service pipes for fire protection that are supplied from the Town system shall be introduced into the premises entirely independent of any other service except by permission of the Superintendent and shall be furnished and installed (upon approved application) by and under the direction of the Superintendent of the Water Department and at the expense of the owner of protected premises, for all labor and materials or other expenses furnished in connection with the work. Applications for such service must be accompanied by two plans of the piping of the entire system, one of which plans shall be for the Chief of the Fire Department.

8c. Sprinkler systems, valves and private hydrants shall be sealed by the Superintendent or under his direction by his assistants.

9. Charges and related charges; see attached Rate Schedule. The charges for use of metered water are payable January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of each year. All bills for money due to the Town must be paid to the Water Department.

If bills are not paid within thirty (30) days the Water Department shall issue a written demand. Failure of owner to receive bills shall not relieve him/her of the obligation of its payment nor of the penalty for non-payment. He/she will be held liable for payment of all charges for water furnished to the premises during his/her ownership and until such time as the Water Department is notified in writing of the transfer of property when the name and the address of the new owner must be given, so that all bills may be properly rendered.

The water shall be understood to be supplied or delivered to any premises when it is furnished as far as the curb stop or valve at the property line, whether the water is used or not.

When a water meter fails to register the water which is used, the Water Department reserves the right to estimate the quantity of water used on the basis of previous consumption for a corresponding period using records obtained from correct registrations of the meter and also to charge and collect such bills for estimated water.

9a. Within new developments and extensions of existing water mains for new developments, the owner will be responsible for all excavation, labor, materials and services within the development. All tapping performed on existing water mains shall be done by a contractor approved by the Somerset Water Department or its agent, and have all necessary proof of insurance the Town may require. All costs including but not limited to street repairs, tapping, labor, excavation, inspection, testing and inspection services provided by the Town shall be borne by the property owner or developer. Installation and all materials used shall be approved by the Superintendent of the Somerset Water Department or his/her agent.

Seventy-five percent of estimated amount is required prior to application approval. The remaining balance of service connection fees must be received before the meter is installed and the water turned on, but in all cases must be paid within thirty (30) days after

completion of installation.

UNDERGROUND WATER MAIN UTILITIES SEPARATION:

10. Water mains should be laid on the east shoulder for streets running in a north/south direction, and on the south shoulder for streets running in an east/west direction. Minimum depth of cover is four (4) feet.

10a. Whenever water mains and other underground utility lines (sewer, gas, electric, telephone, cable, etc.) occur in proximity with one another, the following relationship will be observed:

1. Horizontal Separation – Wherever possible, water mains should be laid at least ten feet horizontally from any existing or proposed underground utility mains or feeds. Should local conditions prevent a lateral separation of ten (10) feet, a water main may be laid closer than ten (10) feet if;

- a. It is laid in a separate trench and its location is approved by the Somerset Water Department.
- b. It is laid in the same trench with the utility (only sewer and drainage permitted) located at one side on a bench undisturbed earth and clearly marked with **APWA Uniform Color Coded Underground Utility Marking Tape**, buried four (4) to six (6) inches deep, following the direction of the water main.
- c. In either case, the elevation of the crown of the utility must have at least an eighteen (18) inch differential in elevation and is to be marked with color coded marking tape as specified above.

2. Vertical Separation – Where the proposed water main meets other utilities (except sewer transmission mains), the water main shall pass under the utility with a minimum clearance of twelve (12) inches. In all cases utilities are to be protected by encasement (piping, conduit, concrete), and clearly marked with color coded marking tape as specified above.

- a. Wherever water mains and sewer mains cross, the water main shall be laid at such an elevation that the top of the sewer main is at least eighteen (18) inches below the bottom of the water main. One full length of water main should be centered over the sewer main so that both joints will be as far from the sewer main as possible. The sewer pipe should be made of ductile iron material or other material specified by the Town of Somerset Wastewater Department. The sewer pipe shall span for a total of ten (10) feet in each direction at the crossing. The sewer pipe and joints of the sewer main shall be encased in concrete.

The Water Department reserves the right to change the Rules and Regulations and water rates at any time and to establish special rates.

The revised rates were adopted by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners May 22, 2024 and take effect July 1, 2024. Changes to the rules, regulations and requirements are hereby amended by the Board of Water Commissioner to take effect on July 1, 2024 and said Board hereby reserves the right to revise or amend the same as may be deemed necessary or expedient.

By vote of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of Somerset, Massachusetts  
Revised and passed on: May 22, 2024

Steven Cadorette, Chairman  
Joseph Bednarik Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Robert E. Lima, Clerk