

# **SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT**

## **“RULES & REGULATIONS”**

**Tap into the source  
for quality**



**50 Water Lane  
Seekonk, Massachusetts 02771  
Tel. (508) 761-8170  
Fax (508) 761-9928**

# SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT

Established under Chapter 381  
Acts of 1945 of the  
General Court of Massachusetts

## FOREWORD

This information has been prepared to establish a better understanding between the Water District and the citizens in the Town of Seekonk.

The rules and regulations embody a uniform practice governing the District for the installation of services, meters, water mains and miscellaneous services rendered. They are intended to define the obligations of the District to the consumer and of the consumer to the District.

Like any other raw product, water must be processed before it reaches its finished state. After this is accomplished, it must be distributed through miles of water mains in order to reach all consumers served by our system.

People, as never before, are beginning to realize how essential their water supply is to life and health and the protection of property against fire. In addition to its value to our civilian economy, it is recognized by manufacturers as a basic material for which there is no substitute.

## BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 1971

### AMENDED

DECEMBER 9, 1986-Re:Various changes  
FEBRUARY 24, 1987-Re:Various changes  
SEPTEMBER 9, 1987-Re:Meter pits  
MARCH 14, 1988-Re:Cross connection regulations  
FEBRUARY 26, 1991-Re:Service call charges  
JUNE 28, 1994 - Public use of fire hydrants  
SEPTEMBER 13, 1994-New rates/effective 1/1/95  
JUNE 17, 1997-Semi-Annual Bills/effective 7/97  
FEBRUARY 24, 1998-Ownership of Service Pipe  
MAY 26, 1998-New rates/effective 7/1/98  
MARCH 9, 2000-New rates/effective 7/1/00  
JULY 1, 2001-New Rates /effective 7/1/01  
APRIL, 2002 – Fire Booster Pumps  
JULY 1, 2002-New Rates /effective 7/1/02  
AUGUST 20, 2002 – Number of services/effective 8/20/02  
JULY 1, 2002 - (New Rate Structure, effective 7/1/02)  
MARCH 4, 2003 - (New Cross Conn. Chg. After hour Chg)  
JULY 1, 2003 - (New Rate Structure, effective 7/1/03)  
JULY 15, 2003 - (Clarification of service pipe ownership)  
OCTOBER 9, 2003 – (Collection fee at Termination)  
DECEMBER 12, 2003 – (After hour service call 12/11/03)  
JULY 1, 2004 – (New Rate Structure, effective 7/1/04)  
DECEMBER 14, 2004 - (New Rate Structure, effective 01/01/05)  
JULY 1, 2005 – (New Rate Structure, effective 07/01/05)  
DECEMBER 15, 2005 – (Device Design Data Sheet application fee, effective 12/15/05)  
JULY 1, 2006 – (New Rate Structure, effective 07/01/06)  
OCTOBER 26, 2006 – (New Various Charges & Fee Schedule, effective 11/01/06)  
JANUARY 25, 2007 – (New Various Charges & Fee Schedule, effective 01/25/07)  
JULY 10, 2009 – (New Rate Structure, effective 08/01/09)  
JULY 1, 2010 – (New Rate Structure, effective 07/01/10)  
FEBRUARY 17, 2011 – (New Service Connection Charges, effective 02/18/2011)  
DECEMBER 22, 2011 – (New Capital Improvement Fee, effective 01/01/2012)  
OCTOBER 11, 2012 – (New after hour service call, effective 10/12/2012)  
DECEMBER 10, 2013 – (New Rate Structure, effective 01/01/2014)  
JANUARY 21, 2014 – (New Frozen Meter Charges, effective 01/21/2014)  
DECEMBER 2, 2014 – (New Billing Schedule-Monthly/Quarterly only), effective 01/01/2015)  
FEBRUARY 24, 2015 – (Water Main Extensions, effective 02/25/2015)  
FEBRUARY 11, 2016 – (Revision to Page 8 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Paragraphs. ), effective 02/15/2016)  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2018 – (New Rate Structure, effective 9/16/2018)  
JUNE 18, 2019 – (Final Bill Charge, Meter Date Extraction Charge, effective 06/18/2019)  
AUGUST 18, 2020 – (New Rate Structure, effective 12/16/2020)  
NOVEMBER 30, 2021- (New Rate Structure, effective 6/15/2022)  
MAY 21, 2024 – (New Rate Structure, effective 9/15/2024)  
MARCH 25, 2025 – (New Rate Structure, effective 9/16/2025)

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### MAIN OFFICE:

The main office of the District is located on 50 Water Lane, Seekonk, Massachusetts.

### OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays: 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS:

Any information about water services, rates, rules, etc. may be obtained by calling 761-8170 and the operator will connect you with the proper party. Complaints of a minor nature may be made by phone. Major complaints should be made in writing and addressed to the Superintendent of the Water District, 50 Water Lane, Seekonk, Massachusetts 02771

### EMERGENCY CALLS:

The District maintains emergency crews who are on duty the entire 24 hours, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Any emergency may be reported day or night by calling 761-8170. If unable to get the above number, then call the Seekonk Police Department at 336-8123.

### STREET SERVICES:

Services between the street main and the curb line are maintained by the District. Any and all work inside the curb line and in the building must be performed by a licensed plumber at the owner's expense.

### INSPECTORS AND METER READERS:

Do not allow any person claiming to be an employee of this District to enter your premises unless he can show proper identification. Authorized employees will possess a Water District identification card with their picture on it. Any impostors should be reported at once.

### RATES FOR WATER:

The entire supply of the Seekonk Water District system to any and all premises shall be furnished by meter ONLY, and at the following prescribed rates, which are adopted and approved by the Commissioners of the Water District.

### BILLS RENDERED MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY:

Water bills shall be rendered monthly or quarterly based on water consumption including an account charge and a 3-step rate structure, or oftener, as determined by the Board of Water Commissioners.

### METERED SERVICE RATES:

Meters are read monthly, quarterly, or by final bill request by Water District personnel. An account charge of \$6.25 (not including water used) per billing period will be assessed. The property owner will be charged for all water used in any one billing period at the following rates:

#### **RESIDENTIAL/QUARTERLY RATES:**

Account charge.....(per billing).....	\$ 6.25
Step 1; (0-16,000 gallons/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 6.14
Step 2; (16,001-25,000/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 7.85
Step 3; (over 25,001/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 11.56
Capital Improvement Fee.....(per billing).....	\$ 9.00

#### **COMMERCIAL/MONTHLY RATES:**

Account charge.....(per billing).....	\$ 8.50
Step 1; (0-5,333 gallons/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 6.14
Step 2; (5,334-8,333 gallons/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 7.85
Step 3; (over 8,334 gallons/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 11.56
Capital Improvement Fee.....(per billing).....	\$ 3.00

**SYSTEM CONNECTION CHARGES & FEE SCHEDULES**

**WATER SERVICE APPLICATION FEE: (materials included – no pipe)**

1" Service with a 5/8" meter..(full service) .....	\$200.00
1" Service with a 5/8" meter..(partial service).....	\$150.00
1" Service with a 3/4" meter..(full service).....	\$225.00
1" Service with a 3/4" meter..(partial service).....	\$175.00
1" Service with a 1" meter.....(full service).....	\$250.00
1" Service with a 1" meter....(partial service).....	\$200.00
All water services greater than 1".....	\$100.00

(Customer has to supply all material & meter)

**SPRINKLER SERVICE APPLICATION FEE:**

4".....	\$ 50.00
6".....	\$ 62.50
8".....	\$ 75.00
10".....	\$ 87.50
12".....	\$100.00

**SYSTEM CONNECTION CHARGE: (Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Subdivisions, Etc.)**

<u>METER SIZE</u>	<u>FIRE SERVICE WITHOUT METER</u>	<u>CONNECTION CHARGE</u>
5/8".....		\$ 1,500.00
3/4".....		\$ 2,250.00
1" .....		\$ 3,800.00
1-1/2".....		\$ 4,560.00
2" .....		\$ 7,200.00
3" .....		\$ 13,800.00
	4".....	\$ 13,800.00
4" .....		\$ 22,800.00
	6".....	\$ 22,800.00
6" .....		\$ 45,600.00
	8".....	\$ 45,600.00
8" .....		\$ 72,000.00
	10".....	\$ 72,000.00
10" .....		\$103,200.00
	12".....	\$103,200.00
12".....		\$141,000.00

**METER RENTAL:**

5/8" Meter.....(per billing).....	\$ 1.00
3/4" Meter.....(per billing).....	\$ 1.50
1" Meter.....(per billing).....	\$ 2.00

**\*Effective January 25, 2007, System connection charges apply to ALL water main extensions, taps and tie-ins (Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Subdivisions, Etc.) to the Seekonk Water District distribution system.**

**WATER RATES:**

**RESIDENTIAL/QUARTERLY RATES:**

Account charge...(per billing).....	\$ 6.25
Step 1; (0-16,000 gallons/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 6.14
Step 2; (16,001-25,000/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 7.85
Step 3; (over 25,001/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 11.56
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Step 1; (0-5,333 gallons/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 6.14
Step 2; (5,334-8,333 gallons/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 7.85
Step 3; (over 8,334 gallons/1,000 gallons.....(per billing).....	\$ 11.56
Capital Improvement Fee.....(per billing).....	\$ 3.00

**ANNUAL SPRINKLER CHARGE:**

4".....	\$119.00
6".....	\$237.00
8".....	\$380.00
10".....	\$546.00
12".....	\$736.00

**CROSS CONNECTION (Backflow)**

per device inspection & testing.....	\$ 35.00
Application Fee per Device Design Data Sheet .....	\$ 50.00

**CHARGE FOR WATER SUPPLY SHUT-OFFS:**

Collection fee at Termination.....	\$ 25.00
To turn water back on; During working hours.....	\$ 25.00
After working hours.....	\$ 100.00

**AFTER HOUR SERVICE CALL.....**\$ 125.00

**FROZEN METER CHARGES:**

5/8" x 3/4".....	\$232.88
3/4".....	\$288.08
1" .....	\$370.88

**FINAL WATER BILL FEE.....**\$35.00

**METER DATA EXTRACTION.....**\$50.00

**METER TAMPERING/ILLEGAL USE OF WATER CHARGE:.....**\$100.00

**BAD CHECK CHARGE:.....**\$ 25.00

**DEMAND CHARGE:.....**\$10.00

**CERTIFIED SHUT OFF NOTICE.....**\$25.00

**ANNUAL INTEREST RATE:.....**14%

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEE PER YEAR:.....**\$36.00

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The following rules and regulations are all subsequent changes in same, or amendments and additions thereto, constitute a part of the contract with every person, corporation, or property owner supplied with water by the Seekonk Water District and every such person, corporation or property owner using such supply shall be considered as having expressed consent to be bound thereby.

A copy is available to every customer and can be obtained upon application, and all persons are requested to read same carefully, as failure to know the rules and regulations will not excuse anyone from the consequences of neglect of such rules and regulations.

The meaning and application of these rules and regulations shall be determined and interpreted by the Seekonk Water District.

**SECTION I**  
**WATER BILLS**

**WATER BILLS** - (information regarding bills:)

Bills are prepared by the Water District office. Payment: All water bills are payable at the office of the District, 50 Water Lane, Seekonk, Massachusetts within thirty (30) days. Penalties: Whenever water is turned off under such conditions, it will not be turned on again without payment of all charges due, plus a fee of \$25.00 for turning on the water. If the water is requested to be turned on after 3:30 p.m., there will be a Charge of \$100.00.

Takers of water have a thirty (30) day grace period from the date of the bill to remit full payment. Within fourteen (14) days after the grace period a Demand Notice will be sent. The fee for this notice will be \$10. If account remains unpaid beyond the terms of the Demand Notice, a Certified Shut Off Notice will be sent giving the customer about ten (10) additional days to pay all past due balances. The fee for this notice will be \$25. Interest will continue to be charged on all past due amounts at the rate of 14% per year or 1.167% per month. If account remains unpaid beyond the terms of the Certified Shut Off Notice, water service may be terminated and lien proceedings initiated.

All claims for abatement must be made in writing to the Board of Water Commissioners within ten (10) days of the bill date..

In extraordinary circumstances, the Board may deviate from the above policy after taking an appropriate vote. Examples of extraordinary circumstances may be a closing attorney has assured us in writing that we will be paid from closing proceeds or a mortgage bank has assured us that it will be making payment and adding the cost to the principal balance due under the mortgage in exchange for keeping the water service on.

Remittances by mail are at the risk of the sender and must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of receipted bill.

**BILLS RENDERED MONTHLY, QUARTERLY OR BY FINAL REQUEST:**

Water bills are rendered to the owner of the property supplied. Large industrial and manufacturing accounts are billed monthly and domestic accounts quarterly.

**PROPERTY OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER BILLS:**

To insure proper rendering of bills, property owners shall notify the office of the Water District of any changes in mailing addresses. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve the property owner from the obligation of its payment or the payment of penalties subsequently incurred.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER CHARGES:**

Customer and property owners shall be responsible for all charges accruing for water service until written notice has been given to the Water District by the owner of the property served to discontinue the service or (in the case of a change in ownership of the premises) until notice has been given the Water District of the change of ownership of the premises served and the new owner has filed with said Water District (on the forms provided for such purposes) a written application for water service. New owners using water at their premises without filing the proper application for water service shall be (1) liable and responsible for all water service provided and water used during their ownership of the premises, (2) subject to the penalties provided by law for the authorized use of water. In such cases the Water District reserves the right to discontinue water service to any property, the recorded owner of which has not filed an application for water service.

Applicants for water service at all premises shall become responsible for all outstanding charges for water thereto for furnished said premises.

SERVICE CALL CHARGE:

Calls that require a service person after normal working hours will be billed to the customer at a rate of \$125.00 per call. Billable calls are those of a non-emergency nature, such as frozen meter, faulty meter valve, low pressure, etc. and/or calls caused by customer neglect.

The service charge may be waived by the Board of Water Commissioners upon the recommendation of the Superintendent when he feels the problem to be unavoidable and beyond reasonable control of the customer.

## SECTION II

### METERS

#### ALL WATER METERED:

All water from the Seekonk Water District system will be supplied through one meter of sufficient size and of standard type with each service connection. It may be located between the curb stop and building. If within the building it must be placed at a point adjacent to the shutoff, where the pipe enters through the foundation wall. All water passing through such meters will be billed to the owner of property supplied, as the same appears in the records of the Water District, whether the water is used or wasted. Water will not be turned on without the installation of a meter. **Any person tampering with or removing the water meter installed by the District will be subject to a fine of \$100.00 and a turn on charge of \$25.00.**

#### PERMIT:

No water shall be extended from any metered building without a permit from the Board of Water Commissioners.

#### ACCESSIBILITY:

Meters must be easily accessible at all times so that they may be examined and read by employees of the District. They must not be exposed to danger from frost or contamination.

#### BY WHOM SET:

The installation, repair and disconnection of all meters is to be performed by employees of the Water District only, except as hereinafter provided.

#### DAMAGED METERS:

If meters are damaged by frost, hot water or external causes, either by carelessness or neglect of the owner or occupant of the premises or his agents, the Water District, except as hereinafter provided, will repair the meter and the owner must reimburse the Water District for all cost of repairs.

#### METER TESTING:

~~Every water meter is carefully tested before it is first installed and also before it is reset after being removed for repairs or other purposes. Periodic tests for duty of each meter will also be made as often as the Water District may deem necessary. Should a property owner at any time question the accuracy of the meter on his service, it may be tested (preferably in his/her presence) after the District receives the request in writing. A deposit of \$35.00 will be required before the meter is disconnected. Should the test show that the meter has been overregistering in excess of three (3) percent, the deposit will be refunded. If the test is within the limit or registers in favor of the customer, the deposit will be retained by the District to cover the cost of the removal and test.~~

#### ADJUSTMENTS:

~~If the testing of a meter as hereinbefore provided shows that it fails to register correctly within three (3) percent, the charge to the customer shall be adjusted accordingly as the registration varies from 100 percent, and such adjustment shall apply to the current period only, unless it is apparent to the Water District that a previous period's consumption has also been affected by the same error.~~

#### METER RENTAL:

All services are to be metered and for each 5/8" meter there will be a quarterly charge of \$1.00, each 3/4" meter \$1.50 and for each 1" meter \$2.00.

**BILLING NON-REGISTERED METERS:**

In case a meter fails to register or has been removed for repairs, testing or other purposes during the billing period, the bill will be issued based on the average daily rate of consumption as shown by the meter after it has been returned to service and is in proper working order.

If the meter has not been returned to service, the bill will be issued based on the average daily rate of consumption for the previous three (3) year period.

**OWNERSHIP OF METERS:**

All meters from 5/8" through 1" are owned by the Seekonk Water District and are installed at the expense of the property owner. All meters over 1" in size will be purchased and maintained by the customer or property owner and become their property when paid in full. The Water District reserves the right to designate the size and manufacturer of the meter to be installed on any service.

**UNSERVICEABLE METERS- (5/8", 3/4" & 1"):**

The Water District reserves the right at all times to remove, test, repair and replace any meter; and if such meter is found to be economically unserviceable, require another meter to be substituted in its place at the expense of the Water District.

**UNSERVICEABLE METERS- (1-1/2" and larger):**

For all other meters (excluding 5/8", 3/4" & 1"), the Water District reserves the right at all times to have the property owner test and repair any meter; and if such meter is found to be economically unserviceable, require another meter be substituted in its place at the expense of the property owner.

**METER BY-PASS:**

All meters larger than 1" shall be equipped with a by-pass valve of the same size as the service pipe. The by-pass valve to be kept sealed shut except when the meter is out.

**TAMPERING OR DEFACING METERS:**

The Water District will prefer charges against every person who shall tamper or deface a meter to prevent the proper registration of the water consumed by altering the register index or otherwise, or for the breaking of any seal placed by the District for the protection of any meter, valve or fitting.

## SECTION III

### **SERVICE PIPES (general)**

#### APPLICATION FOR SERVICE PIPES:

Application for the installation of a new service or the renewal of an old service shall be made by the owner of the property or his authorized agent on forms supplied at the office of the Water District, 50 Water Lane, Seekonk, Massachusetts, 02771.

Application for water must state fully and truly the purpose for which same is to be used together with the proper legal description of the property; also the official street and number of the premises to be supplied. One (1) service only will be allowed to any one (1) property or premises, unless in the opinion of the Water District, more than one (1) is absolutely necessary for the proper protection of the premises. A copy of the approved septic system must also be submitted at the time the application for water is completed.

#### NUMBER OF SERVICES:

Only one (1) service will be allowed to any one (1) home, business, apartment complex, condominium complex or premises (lot), unless in the opinion of the Water District, more than one (1) service is absolutely necessary for the proper protection of the premises.

In the case of an apartment complex, the complex will be "master metered" at property line and the water usage charges will be billed and forwarded to the property owner for payment.

In the case of a condominium complex, the complex will be "master metered" at property line and the water usage charges will be billed and forwarded to the condominium association for payment.

At no time will the Seekonk Water District bill tenants in the case of a rented home, business, apartment or in the case of a condominium, the dwelling or business unit owner.

#### CONNECTION CHARGE FOR SERVICE INSTALLATIONS:

Effective February 24, 1987, the installation of ALL water services from the water main to the proposed meter locations, including tapping of the water main, materials and any road repair will be performed by the owner's contractor at his expense. Materials are to be acceptable to Water District standards.

The owner is required to obtain any and all needed permits and proof of same must be given to the Water District prior to any excavation.

~~There will be an Inspection Charge of \$20.00 per hour payable to the Water District prior to turning on of the water service.~~

No water services shall be installed on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays.

#### PAVING REPAIRS:

All costs for pavement repairs for service installations shall be borne by the customer.

#### OWNERSHIP OF SERVICE PIPE:

The service pipe from the distribution main to the curb stop, not including the discharge connection, is owned and maintained by the District. The portion of the service pipe beyond the curb stop, including the discharge connection, is the property of the owner and is installed and maintained by the owner.

The installer must lay his portion of the service in a straight line from the curb stop to inside the building. The service entering a foundation shall have a protective sleeve.

If it is not feasible to install the water service in a straight line from the curb stop to the building, and the service is less than one hundred & fifty (150) feet in length, and the property owner decides against the installation of a meter pit, (meter pits are required if the service line is longer than 150 feet) the following variance procedure must be followed. A variance request must be submitted in writing to the Board of Water Commissioners stating the reason(s) for the request along with a drawing or sketch showing the proposed new location.

~~Also, an "AS-BUILT" plan, certified by a licensed engineer showing the exact location of the service pipe, must be supplied to the District prior to the installation of the water meter.~~

If the variance is for an existing water service, the "AS-BUILT" plan must be submitted within ten (10) working days of the water service installation.

In the event a variance request is approved by the Board of Water Commissioners, an insulated, #12 AWG (gauge), solid conductor tracer wire must be installed around the new water service and attached to both the curb stop and the meter valve, for future traceability, when copper tubing is not used. Other stipulations may be required, depending on mitigating circumstances.

#### MATERIAL FOR SERVICE PIPES:

All service pipes 1" in diameter to and including 2" diameter shall be approved plastic water service tubing with a minimum of 200 pounds per square inch rating, or type "K" extra heavy, seamless, deoxidized copper tubing, having a minimum ultimate tensile strength of not less than 30,000 pounds per square inch.

Service pipes 4" in diameter and above shall be class 52 cement mortar lined Ductile Iron pipe, manufactured in accordance with A.W.W.A. C-150 and C-151 C as amended to date.

#### INSPECTION:

Service pipes shall be tested for water tightness in the presence of a representative of the Water District before being covered up. No service pipe shall be laid in the same trench with a building drain or sewer pipe NOR SHALL THE WATER PIPE BE CLOSER TO A SEWER SYSTEM THAN FIFTEEN (15) FEET AT ANY HORIZONTAL POINT.

**NOTE: IF ANY WATER LINE OR PART OF A WATER LINE CROSSES A SEWER SYSTEM OR SEWER LINE, IT MUST BE IN A WATER TIGHT SLEEVE AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) FEET EACH SIDE FROM POINT OF CROSSING.**

#### MAIN SHUT-OFF VALVE:

On every new service pipe, immediately after its entry into the building, shall be an approved type valve. Valves manufactured to conform in all respects with Federal Specifications WW-V-54 Type I Class A as amended to date shall qualify as an approved type. Valves that fail to meet these specifications will be rejected for this class of service. Existing service pipes not equipped with the above type of valve, when renewed or replaced shall conform with the requirements for new service pipes.

#### HORIZONTAL METER SETTING:

All small meters on new installation shall be set approximately twelve (12) inches above the floor, in a horizontal position, immediately after the main shut-off and as near to where the service pipe enters the building as is practicable. The plumber shall provide an approved support for the meter. Large meters may be set directly on the floor, and current type meters shall have a straight length of pipe at least eight (8) times the pipe diameter before the meter.

Whenever it is necessary to renew or replace a service pipe, the meter shall be reset to conform with the requirements for new installations.

### BACK WATER VALVES:

All new services shall be equipped with an approved type of gate valve immediately following the meter setting on the house side, to act as a back valve and prevent the house piping from emptying while the meter is being changed or for other work on the service pipe. Valves manufactured to conform in all respects with Federal Specifications WW-V-54 Type I Class A as amended to date shall qualify as an approved type. Valves that fail to meet these specifications will be rejected for this class of service.

Existing service pipes not equipped with the above type of valve, when renewed or replaced shall conform with the requirements for new service pipes.

### TAPPING MAINS:

No person except an authorized representative of the Water District will be allowed under any circumstances to tap the mains or distribution pipes, insert corporation stops therein, set or remove meters on service pipes or interfere with water gates or curb stops.

### REPAIRS TO PROPERTY OWNER'S SERVICE PIPE AND FIXTURES:

Property owners must keep their own pipes and all fixtures connected thereto in good repair and protected from frost at their own expense. In case of a break in that section of the service pipe between the curb stop and the meter, the property owner shall immediately obtain the services of a plumber or contractor to make the necessary repairs. Failure to make repairs at once or to obtain the necessary permits covering these repairs shall be sufficient cause to shut off the supply.

### CLEANING SERVICE PIPES:

The Water District does not recommend or approve the cleaning of service pipes to remove rust or other obstructions to increase the flow. Property owners desiring this service must submit their request in writing, and agree to take all responsibility for the cost of replacing the service in case it is broken.

### SIDEWALK PERMITS:

No sidewalk or other public place shall be open for the laying of service pipes until the property owner has obtained a permit from the proper town or state agency.

### WATER METER PITS:

All water services that exceed one hundred and fifty (150) feet in length from the curb stop to the building will require an approved meter pit.

## SECTION IV

### TEMPORARY SERVICES

#### FOR BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES:

Contractors, builders, etc., requiring water for construction purposes, shall make application for a temporary service and will be subject to the same rules and regulations as apply to regular service installations. A meter will be installed on the temporary service by the Water District and the cost of the meter plus the cost of setting same shall be borne by the applicant. Temporary services will be subject to the connection charge described in Section III, plus the cost of removing the service.

All charges, including the connection charge, cost of removing the service, cost of meter and setting the meter, shall be paid in advance. The applicant will be required to deposit a sufficient sum of money with the Water District to cover the cost of the estimated amount of water.

**Effective June 28, 1994, the Commissioners voted to discontinue the practice of allowing the drawing of water from fire hydrants by private parties and the general public.**

#### SEASONAL SERVICES:

Seasonal customers such as dairy bars, drive-in theaters, summer homes, etc., which have meters that are subject to freezing; the charge for removing, storing, and replacing the meter will be \$35.00. For customers meters (1-1/2" and larger) this service will be \$50.00. Charges not paid in full by the date to replace the meter will be sufficient cause not to turn the water on.

## **SECTION V**

### **MAIN PIPE**

#### **DISTRIBUTION MAIN:**

Distribution mains are water pipes laid in the streets as feeders for consumers' services and hydrants.

#### **WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS:**

No water main extension will be less than an eight (8) inch pipe of material approved by the Board of Water Commissioners and must be installed in the sidewalk area of the roadway layout. Final determination of size of pipe will be made by the Board of Water Commissioners.

#### **WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS continued:**

Installation of a water service line beyond the end of an existing water main shall not be allowed. The main must be extended (including necessary hydrants and appurtenances) to the furthest limit of the Owner's property at their expense. Water mains shall be looped to the maximum extent possible and when required by the Water District Superintendent and/or the Board of Water Commissioners.

#### **PLANS TO BE APPROVED:**

Plans of proposed water main extensions shall be submitted to the Board of Water Commissioners to be approved. Construction shall not be performed without plans that have been approved by the Board of Water Commissioners.

#### **FINANCING EXTENSIONS:**

In all cases where approval is granted by the Board of Water Commissioners for water main extensions, the owner(s) shall assume all costs for material and installation according to the plans and materials approved by the Board of Water Commissioners.

#### **PRIVATE PIPE PROHIBITED:**

Applications for permission to connect private pipes of mains to the distribution system, whether the request is made by an individual or a group of individuals, will be rejected. All services must be supplied from the District's own distribution or supply mains.

## SECTION VI

### **FIRE SUPPLIES**

The Water District may render a special service to private property for private fire protection purposes.

Applications must be made by the owner of the property or his authorized agent and will be subject to all the provisions, including the connection charge, described in Section III entitled "SERVICE PIPES (general)" as far as they apply to this type of service.

#### DRAWINGS:

The applicant must furnish a complete and correct drawing or set of drawings showing the location of the premises to be supplied, together with location of all valves, pipes, hydrants, tanks, sprinkler heads and other appurtenances on the premises at the time of making application. The plans will remain the property of the Water District.

The applicant also agrees to furnish the Water District with drawings showing revisions to piping or appurtenances whenever the same are made.

#### ANNUAL CHARGES - UNMETERED EXCEPT FOR BY-PASS:

The annual charge for this fire service shall be made in accordance with the following schedule, based upon the size of the service connection.

Fire protection service, sprinkler or private hydrants:

- 4" pipe serviced to property, annually \$119.00
- 6" pipe serviced to property, annually \$237.00
- 8" pipe serviced to property, annually \$380.00
- 10" pipe serviced to property, annually \$546.00
- 12" pipe serviced to property, annually \$736.00

Charges for fire service supplies shall be payable in advance of the date of installation, pro-rated for the remainder of the billing year and then annually in advance on the regular billing period for this type of service.

#### INSTALLATION TO BE APPROVED BY DISTRICT:

The Water District expressly reserves the right to determine the necessity for and the advisability of granting any application for this special service and the right to determine the size of the service pipe which will be granted, depending upon the size of the street main, the available pressure on the main and the nature and capacity of the fire protection equipment within the building.

The District will not approve the installation of a fire booster pump that takes suction directly from the District's system. If the required fire flow cannot be obtained; it is the responsibility of the developers engineer to either propose distribution system improvements or install an "on site" storage and/or supply to meet the required flows. All improvements to the District's distribution system, including the review by the District's engineer, will be the sole responsibility of the developer.

#### CONNECTING TO DOMESTIC SERVICE PROHIBITED:

No connection shall be made at any time between the fire supply system and the regular water supply to the premises. Valves placed on this system shall be of a style that can be sealed by the District.

#### NUMBER OF SERVICES:

One (1) service only will be allowed to any one (1) building or premises, unless in the opinion of the Water District, more than one (1) is absolutely necessary for the proper protection of the premises. All fire protection equipment connected to the service shall be confined within the building or where two (2) or more connections are made for one (1) building or premises, they shall be kept separate, unless special permission is obtained from the Water District to connect the same in a manner to be approved by said District.

### USE OF SERVICE:

No water shall be drawn from the fire service pipes except for the extinguishing of fires. This paragraph is not to be construed as prohibiting a reasonable use of water for fire drills, draining of system to prevent freezing or other reasonable use in connection with proper fire protection. Whenever water is used for this purpose, either by the owner or the insurance inspector making the test, the owner shall obtain a reading on the meter before and after the test and forward this information, together with a brief description of the operations resulting in the use of water to the Water District.

### CROSS CONNECTIONS:

Any fire protection system supplied with water from the District service shall be supplied exclusively with such water and no connection will be allowed with any other system drawing its supply from any other source whereby the water supply may be subjected to contamination.

Any fire protection system using water from any other source that the District's service shall be kept entirely separate from any such system supplied from the District service.

### INSPECTION:

All fire services shall be subjected to periodic inspection by inspectors from this District. The owner shall give the inspectors all reasonable facilities for making the survey and any information concerning same that they may require. Care will be taken that inspections will be made with as little inconvenience to the owner as possible.

### ILLEGAL USE:

When the owner(s) or occupants(s) of any premises are found to be using water from a fire service for other purposes than fire protection, the water shall be shut off from same until the offender(s) shall give reasonable assurance before the Water District that the offense will not be repeated.

### METERS:

The owner will purchase and install a fire line compound meter as directed by the Water District provided it is a type approved by said District and the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

The owner will purchase and install a detector check valve with meter in by-pass provided it is a type approved by the Water District and the National Board of Fire Underwriters; but the Water District reserves the right at any time to require the owner to install a fire line compound meter as described in the preceding paragraph.

### VALVES:

On the inlet and discharge side of each fire line compound meter or detector check valve, the owner shall install a gate valve manufactured to conform in all respects with the American Water Works Specifications for Gate Valves for Ordinary Water Works Service as amended to date. The valves shall be of a type that meets the requirements of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

On detector check valve installations with meter in by-pass, the owner(s) shall install a gate valve on the inlet side of the by-pass meter that conforms in all respects with Federal Specifications WW-V-54 Type I Class A as amended to date. On the discharge side of the by-pass meter, the owner shall install a horizontal bronze swing check valve with a metal disc, designed for a working pressure of 125 pounds per square inch for steam or 200 pounds per square inch for oil, water or gas.

### VIOLATIONS OF RULES:

For any violation of the rules governing fire supplies, the Water District may discontinue the use immediately.

## SECTION VII

### **FIRE HYDRANTS**

#### AUTHORIZATION OF HYDRANT INSTALLATIONS:

The Water District shall install public fire hydrants whenever written requests are received from the proper town authority, subject however to all the provisions described in Section V entitled "MAIN PIPE".

#### HYDRANTS ARE PROPERTY OF THE WATER DISTRICT:

All public fire hydrants and their connections are installed and maintained by the District and remain a part of the water works system. No connection charge is placed against the installation of hydrants.

#### OBSTRUCTING FIRE HYDRANT:

No person shall obstruct the access to any fire hydrant by placing or permitting any snow, debris, building material or other obstruction to remain on or about a hydrant which will in any manner interfere with its immediate use.

#### USE OF HYDRANT:

Public fire hydrants are installed for the sole purpose of fire protection and with the exception of the members of the Fire Department operating the same for the legitimate purpose of extinguishing fires and training, no other use of such hydrants shall be made without written consent of the Board of Water Commissioners.

#### APPROVED HYDRANTS:

The following fire hydrants are approved within the District:

- Darling B62B
- Kennedy Guardian with the Baltimore drain
- Mueller Centurion

## **SECTION VIII**

### **GENERAL**

#### **CROSS CONNECTIONS PROHIBITED:**

No licensed plumber or others shall cause a physical connection to be made between the Seekonk water supply and any other water supply for commercial, domestic, sanitary, fire protection or boiler feed purposes or any other purpose whatsoever.

No watercloset, urinal bowl or any other fixture shall be supplied directly from the District's water system through a flushometer or other valve unless such valve is set above the watercloset or urinal bowl or other fixture in such a manner as to prevent any possibility of back siphonage or pollution.

No plumbing fixture, device or construction shall be installed which will provide a cross connection between the District's supply and a drainage system, soil or waste pipe so as to permit or make possible the backflow of sewage or waste into the supply system. Drawoff pipes for draining sprinkler systems shall not be connected into a drainage system or a submerged pit.

If the District's water supply is delivered to a tank, which is also supplied with water from any source other than the public water system, such tank shall be open to atmospheric pressure and the District's water supplied above the maximum level in the tank. The tank shall be equipped with an overflow pipe of ample size to fix definitely the maximum level of water. There shall be at least six (6) inches between the invert of the pipe supplied with the District's water and the maximum level.

If the District's water supply is delivered to a tank in which there are chemicals, dyestuffs or other materials used in processing, the pipe supplied with District water shall not be submerged. There shall be ample clearance between the invert of the District's supply and the top of the tank to prevent back siphonage into the public supply.

#### **PUMP CONNECTION:**

No pump shall be directly connected to any District main or service for the purpose of increasing the water pressure in the District or owner's system unless prior written authorization and approval has been obtained from the Water District.

#### **LAWN AND/ OR GARDEN WATERING SYSTEMS:**

Underground or concealed lawn and/or garden watering systems of any type shall not be installed on any premises unless approved by the Water District. Applications for water service, which includes the installation of such a system, shall be accompanied by two (2) sets of plans showing complete and accurate details of the installation to be made.

The system shall be designed or laid out in zones in such a manner that not more than one (1) zone of sprinkler or sprayingheads shall exceed a discharge rate of forty (40) gallons per minute. A control valve shall be installed which shall prevent the operation or use of more than one (1) zone at any one time. An approved type vacuum breaker of the same size as the supply line shall be installed in the supply line or lines in a location not less than twelve (12) inches above the highest elevation of the sprinkling and/or spraying discharge point, and a check valve shall be installed in the supply line between the vacuum breaker and the water meter.

The plans submitted for approval designate the size, type and length of pipe in the system; the size, type, make and discharge rate of all sprinkler or spraying heads; the size, type, make and location of the vacuum breaker and check valve; and the size, type and make of control valve.

Any change, alteration or addition to any existing system shall be submitted to the Water District for approval before proceeding with the work.

DISHWASHING AND LAUNDRY MACHINES:

Direct water supply to dishwashing and laundry machines shall be equipped with an approved vacuum breaker and a check valve located between the vacuum breaker and the fixture. The vacuum breaker shall be located at least four (4) inches above the highest elevation of the machine.

WATER DISTRICT NOT LIABLE FOR INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE OR DAMAGE RESULTING THEREFROM:

The Water District furnishes water and not pressure and does not guarantee a continuous supply. No responsibility will be assumed for any damage to any apparatus in any house or building due to the shutting off of water without notice, either for repairs on account of a break in the pipe lines or other necessary operations.

No person shall be entitled to damages, nor to have any portion of a payment refunded for any stoppage of supply occasioned by accident to any portion of the works; nor for stoppage for purposes of additions or repairs; nor for non-use occasioned by absence or any other reason.

NOTICE OF INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE NOT REQUIRED:

While it is the intention to give notice, as far as possible, in advance of any work which must be done that will necessitate interruption of the supply, such notice is to be considered a courtesy only and not a requirement on the part of the Water District. In case of a break in pipe lines, water will be shut off at any time without notice.

Failure of tenant or property owner to receive notice of interruption of service shall entail no responsibility on the part of the Water District or its employees. Property owners must so install range boilers, hot water tanks and other installations connected with the water system with adequate safeguards so that damage will not occur if the water is shut off without notice.

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF WATER:

The Seekonk Water District will prefer charges in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts against every person who shall without proper authorization from the Water District tap or make any connection with any street main or service or other distributing pipe connected with the water system; or who shall without such authorization open any gate valve connected with said system so as to obtain water from said system or for the purpose of obtaining such water; or who shall in any way or by any device obtain the use of such water without authorization.

RE-SALE OF WATER:

No consumer, except with the written consent of the Water District previously obtained, will be allowed to furnish water to other persons or property or to suffer such persons to take it themselves. Violations of this regulation cause the supply to be shut off and the water already paid forfeited.

WATER CHARGES TO ONE PERSON:

When water shall be supplied to more than one (1) party, through a single service, the bill for the whole supply furnished through such service will be made to the owner of the property.

WATER WASTE:

Water must not be allowed to waste through any faucet or fixture or kept running any longer than necessary in its proper use. The District is required to restrain and prevent any and all wastage of water; and, to that end, may, when necessary, turn off the water or take such other action as in its judgment may be proper.

RIGHT TO MAKE INSPECTION:

Inspectors of this District or any person authorized by the Water District, must have free access at all reasonable hours to all parts of every building, for the purpose of inspecting, removing or replacing meters, examining water fixtures and observing the manner in which the water is used.

REQUEST FOR TURN ON:

After service has been shut off for any reason except repairs, it shall not be re-established unless a written order is given to the District by the property owner or his authorized agent.

REFUSAL TO GIVE SERVICE:

No water shall be furnished to any property, which is indebted to the Seekonk Water District for water service.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF RULES:

If the owner, agent, lessee, tenant or person in charge of any premises, shall violate any rule or regulation of the Water District affecting said premises, and shall fail to remove any violation(s) or comply with any written order of said District pertaining thereto within (30) days after such order(s) shall have been sent by mail to the last known address of such person, said District may discontinue service to such premises.

If water service is discontinued, it shall not be resumed until the rule or regulation so violated shall have been complied with to the satisfaction of said District, and a fee of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars paid to the Water District Office for the service in turning the water off and on. If the service is requested to be turned on after 3:30 P.M., there will be a charge of \$100.00.

The Water District reserves the right to make such amendments to the rules and regulations as may be necessary for the preservation and protection of the Seekonk Water District supply system.

SEPARATION OF WATER AND WASTE WATER

**The water service SHALL NOT be installed any closer to a waste water system than fifteen (15) feet at any horizontal point.**

VOLUNTARY REQUEST TO DISCONNECT FROM WATER DISTRICT SERVICE

1. The customer shall submit a written request for termination of water service to the Board of Water Commissioners.
2. The customer shall provide a current certificate of water analysis, approved by the Board of Health verifying that the customer has certified potable water available on the premises.
3. The Board of Water Commissioners shall sign the request authorizing termination of the water service.
4. Reconnection of the Seekonk Water District service will be charged at the current rate of new installation.

## SUGGESTIONS TO CONSUMERS

### THE WATER METER:

Consumers are advised to learn to read the meter in order that they may verify the meter reading appearing on the bill. The meter will not tell how the water was used; but it will honestly tell, if consulted at any time, how much is being used or wasted. Its function is to protect the District against the enormous loss from waste or extravagant use, and to fix the charge to consumers according to the services received.

All meters used throughout the District's system read in gallons only.

### METER ACCURACY:

Water meters are made with great care and precision and should, with reasonable care, give years of satisfactory service. A defective meter will invariably under register, or work in favor of the consumer. All meters before being set have been carefully checked and tested for accuracy, and when placed in service are sealed. THIS SEAL MUST NOT BE BROKEN BY THE CONSUMER.

### WASTE AND LEAKAGE OF WATER:

If a meter suddenly shows an increase in consumption, with no apparent cause, one of two (2) things has happened; a leak has started or water has been allowed to run to waste.

Waste and leakage of water is an economic waste, not only to the customer who pays much larger water bills than he should, but to the Water District as well, who must provide a plant of sufficient capacity to meet water demands resulting from leakage and waste in addition to the normal requirements of its consumers. Conservation of water results in indirect savings to the consumer. It eliminates large capital expenditures required in expanding the supply, either at its source or in the distribution system to meet unusual demands from leakage and waste.

### DETECTION OF LEAKAGE:

The flow of water from all fixtures supplied by the meter should be shut off and the pointer on the circle marked "ten gallons" observed for a period of ten or fifteen minutes. If the pointer moves, a leak is indicated, the size of which may be determined by timing the pointer. If the pointer moves one-fourth (1/4) of the way around in fifteen minutes, it represents a waste of 240 gallons per day or 87,600 gallons per year. If the leak cannot be located, a licensed plumber should be called as the Water District is not authorized to do work on private property.

**CHAPTER 381**  
**Acts of 1945**

**SECTION I:**

The Water Supply Board of the Seekonk Water District, or their successors in office to be known as the Board of Water Commissioners as provided in Chapter 381 of the Acts of 1945, entitled, "An Act to establish the Seekonk Water District, whenever they shall adjudge it to be necessary, are hereby authorized to lay and construct water mains in any of the streets of said town, the cost and expense of which shall be paid in a manner hereinafter provided.

**SECTION II:**

The Water District reserves the right to make such amendments to the rules and regulations as may be necessary for the preservation and protection of the Seekonk Water District water supply system.

No new service pipe or extension of pipe shall be laid during the winter months, if in the opinion of the Superintendent, the cost would be greater than if the work was done during the warmer seasons.

**EMERGENCY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF WATER:**

Whenever the Superintendent shall declare that an emergency exists relative to the adequacy of the supply of water for public use and consumption, and such declaration of emergency shall be confirmed and acknowledged by the Commissioners, the Superintendent shall be empowered to establish such rules and regulations restricting the use of water as in his judgement the circumstances may require; provided, however, that before such rules and regulations shall be enforced, they must be approved by the Water Commissioners.

## CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL ORDINANCE

### I. PURPOSE:

- A. To protect the public potable water supply served by the Seekonk Water District from the possibilities of contamination or pollution by isolating such contaminants or pollutants, which could backflow or backsiphon into the public water system.
- B. To promote the elimination or control of existing cross connections, actual or potential, between it's customers' in-plant potable water system and non-potable system.
- C. To provide for the maintenance of a continuing program of cross connection control which will effectively prevent the contamination or pollution of all potable water systems by cross connection.

### II. AUTHORITY:

- A. As provided in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, (Public Law 93-523), and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.22, the water purveyor has the primary responsibility for preventing water from unapproved sources or any other substances from entering the public potable water system.
- B. The Seekonk Water District's Rules and Regulations adopted January 1, 1971.

### III. RESPONSIBILITY:

The Water Commissioners shall be responsible for the protection of the public potable water distribution system from contamination or pollution due to the backflow or backsiphonage of contaminants or pollutants. If, as a result of a survey of the premises, the Commission determines that an approved backflow prevention device is required at the town's water service connection or as in-plant protection on any customer's premises, the Commission, or its delegated agent, shall issue a cross connection violation form to said customer to install approved backflow prevention devices. The customer shall, within a time frame determined by the Commission, install such approved device or devices at their own expense, and failure or refusal or inability on the part of the customer to install said device or devices within the specified time frame shall constitute a ground for discontinuing water service to the premises until such device or devices have been properly installed.

ADOPTED: March 14, 1988

Edwin F. Morgan, Chairman  
Frank N. Benson, Secretary  
James F. Olean

(original signatures on file)