

BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT WATER DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Board of Water Commissioners may adopt rules and regulations relative to the administration of the Water Department's operations, provision of services and charges therefor, including but not limited to: location and installation of water services, fire service lines, and water meters; addition to, extension of and location of water mains; testing of cross connections; use of curb stop; seasonal water service; and fire hydrants and fire hydrant meter rental.

[Note: This provision appears as Article XVI of the Barnstable Fire District By-Laws adopted April 24, 1995].

Article I. Rules and Regulations

The Rules and Regulations made by the Barnstable Fire District, Board of Water Commissioners, as set forth herein, or as later amended, shall govern the relationships between the Water Department and the water consumer. Lack of knowledge of these regulations does not exempt a consumer from their enforcement.

Article II. Application for a Service Connection

Application for a service connection to the Barnstable Fire District water system must be made on the water department's "Water Service Application" form, which must be signed by the property owner or his/her agent. A tapping fee, the amount of which is governed by the size of the meter, and a systems improvement charge of \$ 2,000.00 must be paid when making application. An additional bill will be rendered when the service installation is completed. Owner will be responsible for contracting with a District-Authorized contractor for the installation of the water service. This bill must be paid before the water will be turned on.

Article III. Metering

Section 1. A water meter will be installed in a frost-protected area of the premises, usually a corner of the basement. Only water department employees shall at any time install, remove or disturb the water meter. The Department will keep the meter in running order and guarantee it to register within 3% of total accuracy. Meters will be tested upon written request of the consumer, and if found accurate, a charge at the current labor rate will be made. If found to be over-registering, adjustment will be made for the preceding six months bill. Damage to meters from abuse, freezing, backflow of hot water or external causes shall be paid for by the consumer. Regardless of location, the meter shall be kept accessible to water department employees at all times, and failure to provide such access after the consumer has been notified, shall be reason for shutting off the water. It is the Department's intention to discontinue the use of "pits" to house water meters. All requests for "pits" to house the water meter will be handled on an individual bases by the Board of Water Commissioners.

Section 2. Remote reading devices are installed on the exterior of buildings to enable the Department to read the water meter without disturbing the owner/tenant. It is the Department's sole discretion as to placement of the remote reader on the exterior of the building. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain an unobstructed path to this device, which will include, but not be limited to, the trimming of shrubs, vines and tree branches that may inhibit the meter reader from reaching the device without injury.

Article IV. Liability

The Water Department shall not be liable for any inconvenience or any damage to household fixtures or damage by reason of dirty water caused by variation in water pressure or interruption of the water supply, either from its activities or the activities of the District's Fire Department. A dependable water supply at uniform pressure is the objective of the water department. When an emergency or the need for alteration or repairs to the water system causes an interruption in the supply, a notice will be given to the affected consumer when practicable and the water supply will be returned to its normal flow as quickly as possible.

Article V. Water Rates

[Note: See Article XVI, Barnstable Fire District By-Laws, adopted April 24, 1995].

Article VI. Bills

Bills are due when presented. The property owner is responsible for all charges; no billing shall be made to tenants. Claims for abatement must be made in writing to the Water Commissioners within thirty days of the billing date.

Article VII. Delinquencies

Delinquent consumers are sent a "Notice" followed by a "Demand" shut-off notice, if necessary. If such notices fail to produce payment, the outstanding water charges will be collected through a tax lien placed against the consumer's property. Such charges, however, may be collected by any legal means, including shutting off the water in accordance with the General Laws of Massachusetts. A charge of \$25.00 for turning off the water and an additional charge of \$25.00 for turning it on, along with certified mail costs, will be added to the bill in such cases.

Article VIII. Stand-By

A stand-by rate of \$25.00 per year is available for those services that will not use water during any four (4) consecutive billing quarters. Application for the stand-by rate may be made and filed at any time and will be effective as of the next billing quarter. If water is turned on at any time during the stand-by year, the regular water rate will apply.

Article IX. Cost of Repairs

The costs of repairing a service line will be the responsibility of the customer when the repair is made between the curb stop and the meter. This includes repairs made to the meter cellar shut-off valve and check valve. Repairs made to the water service line between the main and the curb stop will be the responsibility of the water department, this includes the curb stop, curb box and including curb box cover replacements.

Article X. Change of Ownership

A change of ownership must be reported to the water department and outstanding charges paid. Failure to do so may result in withholding water from the new owner, and a lien may be placed against the property.

Article XI. Penalties

Under penalty of prosecution, no person or consumer shall under any circumstances:

1. Draw water from a hydrant.
2. Operate the curb valve to any water service.
3. Make any alteration to either a service pipe or any of its connections.
4. Supply water from any other source to the same piping and fixtures, which are fed from the public water supply. (This is termed a "cross connection" and is rigidly policed by the Water Department and the Department of Environmental Protection).
5. Supply water to any additional consumer, either on his property or adjoining property.
6. Remove or in any way tamper with the water meter.

Article XII. Condominiums and Other Shared Ownership Buildings or Properties

Multiple unit properties, where title is held through a system of separate ownership of individual units, be they residential or commercial in nature, will only be serviced by the water department under the following conditions: That each unit be serviced individually, having its own water service pipe, shut-off valves and backflow preventer. The specifications and size of the piping will be determined by the water department to the point of metering; That, each unit will have a meter appropriately sized to accommodate its needs as determined by the water department; That, each unit owner of record will be billed for his water use as metered; That, a separate service will be provided for the common areas of the property (lawns, pools, etc.). The service piping and meter size will be determined by the water department. The

water metered through this service will be billed to the condominium organization of unit owners; That, adequate fire protection be provided to the property as directed by the Fire Chief or his designee. This may include the extension of water mains and the installation of hydrants and other appurtenances. Such additions to the water system will be accomplished under the supervision and specifications of the water department.

Article XIII. Lawn Sprinklers

Lawn sprinkler systems will be accommodated on house domestic services when the combined household use and sprinkler use do not exceed 30 gpm allowing a minimum of 15 gpm for domestic use.

That load can be accommodated with a 3/4" meter. Any sprinkler system that would place a total use rate above 30 gpm must be put on a completely separate service and billed as such.

Since a standard house service incorporates a 5/8" X 3/4" meter, a charge of \$400.00 for a new meter will be imposed as well as a labor charge based on the then current hourly rate with a minimum charge of one hour labor.

Article XIV. Eligibility for Connecting to the Public Water Supply

Any building lot is eligible to connect to the Public Water Supply System if that lot fronts and abuts a right-of-way or approved road containing an active water main in its layout. In the event the water main is not directly in front of said lot, the owner(s)/developer(s) would be required to connect into the closest water main that is within 1000' of the property, and extend this water main to the furthest point of the property in the opposite direction of the water main connection. The same applies for a sub-division. All extensions and installations will be done according to the Water Department's Specifications. Upon completion of and acceptance of said water main extension, the property(ies) would be eligible to apply for a water service(s) to the property(ies).

Article XV. Fire Hydrants

Section 1. Authority and Purpose

This regulation is adopted by the Barnstable Fire District pursuant to its home rule powers and its specific authorization under Massachusetts General Laws. This regulation is adopted to insure the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Barnstable Fire District by providing for adequate and unobstructed access to the fire hydrants of the District.

Section 2. Installation of New Fire Hydrants

Installation of all hydrants shall be approved by the Fire Chief and the Superintendent of the Water Department.

Section 3. Non-Emergency use of Fire Hydrants

Anyone requiring the use of a fire hydrant in the service area of the Barnstable Fire District for the purposes other than fire fighting shall request permission from the Superintendent of the Water Department a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time needed.

For all approved non-emergency uses the fire hydrant shall be metered with backflow devices according to the specifications of the Water Department Superintendent. For all non-emergency uses by the Fire Department, the Department shall, in lieu of a backflow metering device, record the static pressure, flow and duration for each use on a form that will be provided by and submitted upon completion to the Superintendent.

Section 4. Obstructions of Fire Hydrants

All fire hydrants shall be clear of all obstructions for a minimum distance of three feet on all sides measured from the center of the hydrant-operating nut. Within the three-foot clearance radius, the fire hydrant shall be clear of all obstructions for a height of six feet, measured from the center of the steamer cap orifice. The breakaway flange shall be visible at ground level.

The Superintendent of the Water Department shall provide a diagram of these requirements, which shall be available upon request of the Water Department.

Section 5. Physical Protection of Fire Hydrants

When a fire hydrant is located on private property in an area of vehicular traffic, sufficient protection must be provided so as to prevent physical damage to the hydrant. The minimum requirements are as follows:

To provide frontal protection for the hydrant there shall be two four-to-five inch diameter cement filled posts placed a minimum of three feet from the center of the hydrant operating nut. These posts shall not be less than four feet apart.

To provide rear protection for the hydrant, there shall be three four-to-five inch diameter cement filled post placed a minimum of three feet from the center of the hydrant-operating nut. These posts shall be equally spaced and shall not be placed forward of an imaginary line drawn across the rear side of the 2 1/2-inch caps.

All posts, front and rear, shall be buried to a minimum depth of four feet and shall not extend above grade for more than four feet.

Section 6. Notification

Owners of property adjacent to a fire hydrant for which there are obstructions that do not meet the requirements set forth in Section 4, shall be required to remove the obstructions. Property owners will be notified by the Fire Chief or Water Superintendent in person and in writing. The notice will state the violation(s) under this regulation, and will suggest proper remedial procedures. Property owners will have fourteen (14) days from the date of the written notice to comply with the requirements.

Article XVI. Metering Devices with Check Valves

Where water meters or metering devices with check valves are installed which creates a hazard or nuisance, an expansion tank shall be installed as close as possible to the water meter or metering devices. The expansion tank shall be of adequate size and constructed of approved materials.

(Mass. State Plumbing Code 248 CMR 2.14 (4)(j) of 1988)

Article XVII. Cross Connection Control

[Note: This provision appears as Article XXV of the Barnstable Fire District By-Laws Adopted April 24, 1995].

Article XVIII. Multi-Users on One Service

A multi-user account is a residence divided into distinct separate self-sustaining living areas with one water service/meter and one owner. If the property is subdivided and /or condominiumized and the living areas become separately owned, each unit or living area will be required to have a separate water service and meter. **[Note: See Article XII of these Rules and Regulations]**

Article XIX. Optional Separate Metering Systems

[Note: This provision appears as Article XXVI of the Barnstable Fire District By-Laws Adopted April 24, 1995].

BARNSTABLE FIRE DISTRICT

WATER DEPARTMENT

RULES AND REGULATIONS [ADOPTED JULY 6, 1999]

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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