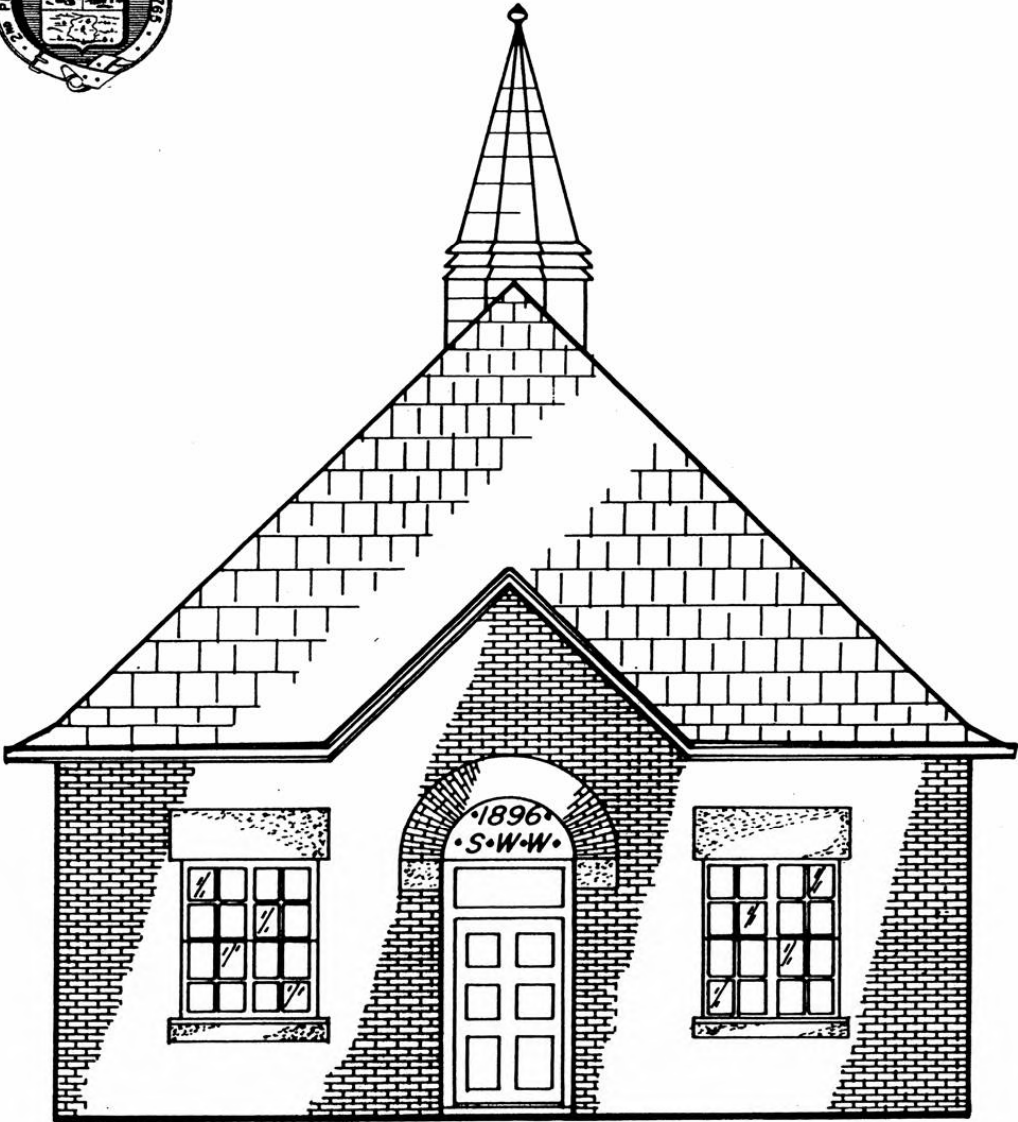


**WATER DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

*Town of Sharon Public Works Department*



Adopted September 1, 1986

**Town of Sharon  
Water Division  
of the  
Department of Public Works**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

By virtue of the statutory powers and all other powers, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Sharon, acting as the Board of Water Commissioners, establishes the following Rules and Regulations for the conduct of the business of the Water Division. These Rules and Regulations are part of the contract with every consumer, and govern the business relationship between the Water Division and the consumer.

**ARTICLE I**

**DEFINITIONS**

1. **Consumer.** Any person, firm, corporation, body politic, or organization of any type supplied with water by the Sharon Water Division.
2. **Main.** The Supply pipe of the Town. Usually laid in the street, from which water is taken through the "house" or "service" connections. See Figure 1.
3. **Service.** A pipe running from the main to the building or meter on the premises of the consumer. See Figure 1.

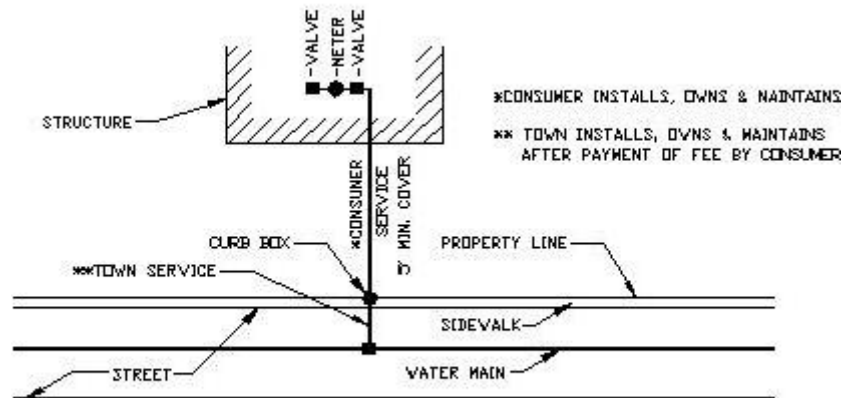


FIGURE 1. TYPICAL SERVICE CONNECTION

**ARTICLE II**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. **Application for water service.**  
All applications for the introduction of Town water to private premises shall be made in writing on the form provided at the Department of Public Works Office Building, 217R South Main Street. Only the Record Owner of Realty, or a duly authorized agent, may apply for Town water. Approval of the application by the Water Division shall create a contract between the water division and the applicant obligating the applicant to pay the Water Division its established rates and to comply with these rules and regulations.

The Water Division may require changes to sizes and locations applied for.

Applications must be accompanied by a check for tapping and installation. See Article VII for fees.

**2. Responsibility for charges.**

Once the water service has been turned on, the Record Owner of Realty will be charged with and held responsible for all water passing through the service pipe. A demand charge and interest will be rendered by the Town on delinquent bills and continued delinquency will result in a lien on the consumer's property.

**3. Transfer of Ownership.**

Whenever an owner sells or transfers property for which application for service has been granted, the owner shall promptly notify the Water Division in writing, giving the name and address of the new owners who must forthwith make application for future service. A lien for water furnished to the prior owner continues against the subsequent owner of the property. This lien is also effective against mortgages, attaching creditors or any other person who claims by, from or under the owner who has made application for the service to be rendered.

If requested, the Water Division will perform a courtesy meter reading at the time of transfer of ownership; however, a final bill will not be rendered by the Water Division

**4. Unusual Construction.**

Owners of property desiring any construction, alterations or attachments which are inconsistent with these Rules and Regulations must submit plans and specifications to the Water Division for review and approval or disapproval. The Water Division will determine the terms, conditions and charges, if any, under which the work will be performed.

**5. Access to premises.**

Employees of the Water Division shall be permitted to access all premises supplied with water at reasonable hours, to permit inspection of plumbing and fixtures, to set remove or read meters, to ascertain the amount of water used and manner of use, and to enforce these Rules and Regulations.

**6. Conditions under which service is furnished.**

The Town does not guarantee constant pressure nor uninterrupted service, nor does it assure the consumer either a full volume of water or the required pressure per square inch necessary to effectually operate hydraulic elevators, sprinkler systems, or other appliances, the same being subject to all the variable conditions that may take place in the use of water from the Town main.

**7. No liability for interruption of service.**

No consumer will be entitled to damages, or to have any portion of payment refunded, for any interruption of supply occasioned either by accident to any portion of the works, or by shutting off for the purpose of additions or repairs to the works, or by stoppage or shortage of supply due to causes beyond the control of the Water Division, such as excessive drought, excessive use of and waste of water by other consumers, or by leaks or defects in the pipes or appliances owned by him or other consumers.

**8. No liability for dirty water.**

The Town will not be responsible for damages caused by dirty water resulting from the opening or closing of any gate for repairs, the use of any hydrant, or the breaking of any pipe.

**9. No liability for consumers' pipes.**

The Town assumes no liability for conditions which exist in consumers' pipes and causes trouble coincident or following the repairs of any main pipe, service pipe, meter or other appliance belonging to the Water Division.

**10. No liability for collapsed boilers, etc.**

The Water Division reserves the right at any time, without notice, to shut off the water in the mains for purposes of making of making repairs, extensions or for other necessary purposes. Persons having boilers or other appliances on their premises depending on the pressure in the pipes to keep them supplied with water are hereby CAUTIONED against danger from these sources, and are required to provide, at their own expense, suitable safety appliances to protect themselves against such danger. In any event, it is expressly stipulated that the Town will not be liable for any damage resulting from water having been cut off, either through accident or necessity.

**11. No liability for shutting off water without notice.**

When it becomes necessary to shut off the water from any section of the Town because of an accident or for the purpose of making any changes or repairs, the Water Division will endeavor to give timely notice to as many of the consumers affected thereby as time and character of the repairs or accident will permit, and will, so far as practicable, use its best efforts to prevent inconvenience and damage arising from any such cause but failure to give such notice will not render the Water Division responsible or liable for any damages that may result from the shutting off of the water or any coincident conditions.

**12. Service turn off/on.**

Only Water Division employees will turn off/on service at the street.

**13. Violation of Regulations.**

Any violation of these regulations may result in the Board of Selectmen acting as the Board of Water Commissioners ordering the shutting off of water to the violator's premises. When the water has been shut off for violation of rules, nonpayment of charges or other offense, it will not be turned on again until the Water Division is satisfied that there will be no further cause of complaint.

**ARTICLE III**

**SERVICE PIPES AND FIXTURES**

**1. Conference with Water Division.**

Prior to commencing installation of water service, the consumer (or developer) will meet with the Water Division to review and insure understanding of, and compliance with these Rules and Regulations.

**2. Size and type of service.**

The service connection will extend from the curb box at the property line through the foundation wall to an acceptable meter location. The service connection shall have a minimum of five and one-half feet (5 ½') of cover, with six inches (6") of select material at the bottom of the trench. The pipe size shall be as specified in section 2.14, Fuel Gas and Plumbing Codes, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but in no case shall be less than three quarters (3/4") inches. The pipe shall be type K copper tubing and be of continuous length. A heavy duty ball valve shall be installed on either side of the meter location to permit removal of the meter.

All new service pipes will be inspected in place before the trench is back-filled.

**3. Town service connection.**

The Water Division shall tap the main and install the service in an accepted street from the main to the curb box at the property line. Consumers are responsible for a System Development Fee and a Tapping Fee as established in Article VII.

**4. Underground utilities.**

No underground utility, i.e., electric, gas, telephone, T.V. cable or fire alarm, will be installed within eight (8) feet on either side of the water service.

**5. Responsibility for service pipe.**

The service pipe from the main to the curb box, and the curb box at the property line shall be owned and maintained by the Water Division. From the curb box, into the building to the meter and beyond, the service shall be installed, owned and maintained by the consumer. In the event of a leak in the consumer's service, such leak will be repaired upon discovery as a condition of continued water supply.

**6. Winter provisions.**

The Water Division will not connect new water services in Town accepted streets, except in emergencies as approved by the Superintendent of Public Works, between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. In the event that emergency installations are performed, the consumer shall pay any excess over normal costs.

When a consumer's service connection is frozen, the thawing may be done by the Water Division, subject to the availability of manpower, at the expense of the consumer.

When it becomes necessary to thaw a frozen service pipe, and it cannot be determined where the pipe is frozen, and if the Water Division undertakes to thaw the service at the consumer's request, one half of the cost shall be paid by the consumer.

To avoid recurrence of freezing, the Water Division may order an examination of the consumer's service connection, and if it is not at a depth of five and one-half feet (5 ½'), the Water Division reserves the right to require that it be relocated as a condition of continued service.

**7. Low Flow Fixtures.**

Ultra low flow toilets and washing machines shall be installed in all new construction whose building permits have been issued on or after July 1, 2008. Only those fixtures approved by the Department of Public Works, listing available on request, shall be installed. Appeals to this provision may be addressed in writing to the Superintendent of Public Works.

**ARTICLE IV**

**METERS**

**1. Installation.**

The Water Division will install all meters and remote readers on new services. The cost of the meter, remote reader, and the installation will be included in the consumer service connection fee.

**2. Location.**

All meters shall be set, as nearly as possible, at the point of entry of the service pipe to the building, and the consumer shall provide and maintain a clean, warm accessible place therefore. The remote reader will be set on the exterior of the building, on the driveway side whenever possible, at approximately eye level, and at a location where plantings or shrubs will not inhibit the meter reader's access.

**3. Access to meters.**

It shall be the duty of all consumers to see that meters on service connections and remote readers shall be readily accessible at all times to the Water Division. Failure to remove any obstruction which prevents access to the meter or the remote meter within three (3) days after being notified by the Division will cause the water to be shut off from the premises and it will not again be turned on until all obstructions are removed, and all regulations are complied with.

**4. Meter repairs, relocation or replacement.**

The Water Division shall have the right to remove, repair or replace any meter at any time. All meter installations which cannot be shut off shall be equipped with a by-pass at the expense of the consumer.

**5. Payment for damaged meters.**

The consumer shall be liable for the cost of repairing or replacing meters and remote meter readers damaged by freezing, hot water, or other external causes.

**6. Movement of meters.**

Once set by the Water Division, meters and remote readers will be moved only by the Water Division. If the relocation is done for the convenience of the consumer, the consumer will be liable for the cost of the relocation.

**7. Testing meters by request.**

The accuracy of the meter on any premises will be tested by the Water Division upon written request of the owner, who shall pay in advance a fee (see Article VII) to cover the cost of the test. If on such test the meter is found to register over two percent more water than actually passes through it, the meter will be repaired and the fee will be refunded and the water bill for the current period will be adjusted in accordance with the result of the test; if, however, it appears that the person was charged, or has paid for less water than he should have been charged with or should have paid for, he shall forthwith be charged with the proper additional amount and shall pay the same, together with the expense of the examination and test, to the Town.

**8. Cross-connections.**

No cross-connection shall be installed, maintained, permitted, or otherwise authorized between the Town of Sharon water supply system and any water pipe, soil pipe, drain, or any unapproved source or system. When necessary, back-flow prevention devices, approved by the Sharon Water Division will be installed. Failure to comply with orders issued by the Water Division abate cross-connections will result in service discontinuance.

**ARTICLE V**

**WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Any person who violates a restriction or restraint upon the use of water on private premises, imposed in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 41-A, as amended, by the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Water Commissioners, shall be punished by a written warning for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, \$100 for the third offense, and \$300 for each subsequent offense. Each day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

(Article 24, General By-Laws of the Town of Sharon).

**ARTICLE VI**

**SUBDIVISIONS**

**1. Connection to Public Water System.**

Every subdivision shall be connected to the public water system by the developer unless otherwise approved by the Planning Board and the Board of Health. Where connection to the public system is not feasible, a subdivision plan shall be approved only on presentation of evidence satisfactory to the Planning Board, upon advice of the Board of Health, that adequate and suitable supply of potable water is available, and upon evidence satisfactory to the Board, upon advice of the Fire Chief, that adequate provisions for fire fighting have been made.

Water pipes and related equipment, such as hydrants and main shutoff valves, corporation shutoff valves, service pipe to curb boxes, curb boxes and blow-offs, shall be installed within

every subdivision as necessary to provide all lots on each street with adequate water supply for domestic and fire protection use. Such system shall be installed regardless of whether it is to be connected to a public system or a private on-site systems are to be initially relied upon.

**2. Standards of Construction.**

Public water mains, house connections, and related facilities shall be installed to the standards of the Department of Public Works. Mains shall be Class 52 cement-lined ductile iron pipe and shall not be less than eight inches (8") in diameter unless approved by the Planning Board in conjunction with the Town of Sharon Public Works Department, Water Division. Pipe joints shall be push-on type.

**3. Hydrants.**

Where public water is provided, hydrants shall be provided every five hundred (500) running feet or part thereof on one side of each street unless a greater distance is approved by the Chief of the Fire Department in writing. In any case, there shall be a minimum of one (1) hydrant in each subdivision. They shall be of a style approved by the Department of Public Works.

Each hydrant shall be served directly from the water main through a six inch (6") lateral connection. It shall be gated with a six inch (6") bottom valve and shall have two and one-half inch (2 ½") hose outlets and one (1) five inch (5") pump outlet. Water main gate valves shall be located in such number and locations that lines by individual block may be isolated for maintenance purposes. Hydrant gates shall be located within the paved roadway surface.

**4. Pressure test and disinfection.**

The entire system shall be pressure tested and disinfected in accord with American Water Works Association (AWWA) and approved by the Department of Public Works prior to acceptance.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**WATER RATES AND FEES**

**1. Water rates effective January 1, 2010.**

<b><u>QUARTERLY WATER RATES</u></b>				
(PER 1,000 GALLONS)				
Effective January 1, 2010				
	Residential*		Other**	Irrigation Only
Base Fee <7,501 gallons	\$15 Base Rate	\$15.00	\$22.50	\$75.00
	Fall/Winter	Spring/Summer		
>7500 gallons	\$22.50 Base Rate	\$22.50 Base Rate	\$3.00	\$10.00
7,501-15,000 gallons	\$4.00	\$4.50	\$3.50	\$10.00
15,001-22,500 gallons	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$4.50	\$10.00
>22,500 gallons	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$5.50	\$10.00
* \$15.00 Base Fee applies only to those customers using 7,500 gallons or less per billing period.				
* \$22.50 Base Fee applies to those customers using 7,501 gallons or more per billing period.				
** Agriculture, commercial and industrial uses				
Fall/Winter: October through March				
Spring/Summer: April through September				

2. Fee schedule effective May 8, 1986.

System Development Fee	\$4000.00 per new connection per unit of occupancy. \$2000.00 for existing house converting from their own well water.
Tapping Fee- 1" Service	\$4000.00, plus cost to Town in Town accepted street (Materials and installation by Water Division).
Tapping Fee- Services Larger Than 1 " in Size	Installed by an Approved Contractor.
Turn Water Off/On	No charge during regular working hours. Overtime rate during other than working hours.
Thaw Frozen Service	Actual Cost.
Test Water Meter	\$50.00 if test proves meter accurate +/- 2%.
Meter Tampering Penalty	\$250.00