

# HULL PERMANENT SEWER COMMISSION

## SECOND WATER METER POLICY

### PURPOSE

To allow for adjustment of sewer billing charges to reflect water which is measured by the potable water meter which does not enter the Town's sanitary sewer system.

### DEFINITIONS

SECOND WATER METER. A standard water meter measuring in cubic feet which is installed on a water line feeding a device which does not drain to the Town of Hull's sanitary sewer system.

SEASONAL SECOND WATER METER. A second meter installed on a water line feeding a external hose bib, sprinkler system or device installed to use water outside of the structure. The water use for this meter is predominately incurred during the late spring to early fall of each year.

CONTINUAL USE SECOND METER. A second meter which feeds a device which is in continual use throughout the majority of a calendar year.

WATER COMPANY'S WATER METER. A water meter which measures the consumption of water provided by the water company from its mains to the property.

### INSTALLATION, AND USE OF SECOND WATER METERS.

Type of second water meter. The meter shall be a standard positive displacement water meter which records in cubic feet. The meter shall be capable of accepting a standard water meter tamper seal. The owner of the property is responsible for purchasing the meter and incurring all costs of installation. The meter shall not be considered the property of the Sewer Department and the department holds no responsibility for maintenance or repair of the meter.

All residential second meters are defined as seasonal second meters and not continual meters. If the applicant can show good cause that the meter should be defined as a continual second meter the Sewer Department shall take it under consideration and where warranted grant such status.

Installation and location of the second meter. The second meter shall be installed by a Massachusetts licensed plumber. The meter shall be located on a water line which only serves the device from which flow is not returned to the sanitary sewer. It shall be located

so as to allow free and easy access for maintenance and reading. Any provision to drain the water line downstream of the second meter shall be done in such a way as to ensure that flow may not be redirected to a device, which does return flow to the sanitary sewer.

Permits. The Massachusetts licensed plumber shall obtain a permit with the Sewer Department for the installation of the second meter. Applicable fees must be paid at the time the permit is obtained. The Massachusetts licensed plumber is responsible for additional permitting through the Building Department as applicable.

Inspection and sealing of the second meter. Prior to acceptance by the Sewer Department, for the purposes of reducing sewer consumption use, the meter shall be inspected, and a tamper proof seal installed by a representative of the Sewer Department. No credit shall be given for any usage on the meter at the time of inspection. The line and uses to which the second meter feeds shall also be inspected at this time. The fee for this inspection shall be \$50 to recover the time and expense associated with this service and shall be paid at the time the permit is obtained.

Follow up inspections. Within the provisions of Chapter 149 Section 26 of the Bylaws of the Town of Hull, the department shall have the right to enter properties with a second meter for the purpose of inspection.

Second water meter reads. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner where a second meter is located to provide the second meter consumption readings to the Sewer Department office so that the adjustment may be made to the property's sewer billing account.

The reading shall be provided to the Sewer Department by October 1<sup>st</sup> at the latest.

Continual second meter reads shall be provided by May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

If a reading is not provided by the required dates no adjustment to the current bill is possible for the applicable billing period.

In the event that the water consumption as measured through the second water meter exceeds the consumption of the water company's meter serving the property for the current billing period, no credit in excess of the consumption as measured by the water company's meter shall be granted. Any consumption in excess shall be zero balanced and not carried forward.

The Sewer Department will make a good faith attempt to advise owners of second meters that meter readings need to be provided. However, no action or inaction on the part of the Sewer Department relieves the property owner where a second meter is located from the responsibility of providing the second meter readings to the Sewer Department in a timely fashion.

The Director of Wastewater Operations shall have the authority to adjust the dates by which readings must be received by the Sewer Department to coincide with any changes to the billing system. Written notification to the owners of properties where second meters are located shall be made.

Second water meter mechanical failure. If the second meter fails to measure flow due to mechanical failure, the following methodology shall be employed to estimate usage.

Where possible a historical second meter water consumption average shall be developed for the meter for the historical period of the current property owner's use. A correction factor of 10% shall be subtracted from the average and the billing account shall be adjusted by that corrected average amount. All other provisions of Second Water Meter shall apply to this estimated method.

The defective meter shall be repaired or replaced by the property owner and resealed by the Sewer Department before any further adjustments to the properties sewer bill account may be made.

**Adopted June 9, 2022**