



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# Town of Southwick

454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

## **Town of Southwick, MA Secondary Water Service Policy Adopted on March 23, 2016**

### **Section 1 Authority and Purpose**

These regulations set forth uniform requirements for the installation of secondary water services for the purpose of outside-use only, and not intended for domestic drinking water, commercial and manufacturing use. A secondary water service will allow a property owner to avoid Sewer Use Charges on the water used through the irrigation system. The secondary water service shall be installed so that water in the irrigation system (outdoor use) and water used in the house (domestic use) are recorded separately. The Department of Public Works (DPW), acting through the Board of Water Commissioners and the Board of Sewer Commissioners, shall implement and administer the provisions outlined within these rules and regulations.

The policy shall allow one secondary water service per property. All uses of secondary water meters shall be subject to the Town's Water Withdrawal Permit, as issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The use of secondary water meters shall require the observance of any or all conservation measures, including Water Use Bans.

All secondary water services are considered un-necessary for the primary supply of water to a facility. At their discretion, the Board of Water Commissioners may order the discontinuation of the use of a secondary water service to prevent a hazard to public health or any other reason.

The Owner shall allow DPW employees entry onto the premises for the purpose of repairing, calibrating, replacing, reading or maintaining water meter equipment, and other appurtenances attached thereto.

### **Section 2 Procedure**

*The Owner must obtain all necessary permits from the Town of Southwick before any work may commence, including, but not limited to, a New Water Service Application and a Trench Permit from the DPW, and a Plumbing Permit from the Building Department. All applications must include drawing(s) of the proposed secondary water service, including sizes and locations of pipes, valves, meters, backflow devices, sprinkler heads, outside hose bibs, and any other materials involved in the project.*

*Upon issuance of the necessary permits, the Owner may commence construction. When the plumbing work is installed, the Plumbing Inspector shall be contacted by the Owner to perform an inspection of the work. Upon approval, the Plumbing Inspector shall notify DPW that the service is ready for a new meter.*

### **Section 3 Requirements**

The Owner is required to pay for all installation and maintenance costs for a secondary water service, excluding installation of the water meter. Construction shall adhere to all State and Local plumbing codes.

All secondary water services shall be completely separate from the original domestic service. No cross-connections between the services are permitted. The secondary water service shall have a separate pipe from the water main, including a separate curb stop. The sprinkler system shall be equipped with an operable rain sensor switch. The secondary water service shall be metered separately from the original domestic service. The meter shall be located in a meter pit, and shall include a meter transmission unit

(MTU) compatible with the Town's fixed network meter reading system. The DPW shall be the sole source for meters and MTU's. No outside purchases for these devices are allowed.

All secondary meter services shall be equipped with a downstream testable backflow device, as required by 310 CMR 22.22. Anti-syphon pressure type vacuum breakers can be used only when installed a minimum of 12 inches above the highest sprinkler head or outside hose bib. Reduced pressure backflow preventers shall be installed if the required vertical separation for the anti-syphon pressure type vacuum breakers cannot be met.

The backflow devices shall be accessible from the outside to allow DPW personnel to inspect the device annually. Owners are further required to maintain a rebuild kit for the backflow device (or a replacement device) on-site at all times in accordance with State plumbing regulations.

#### **Section 4 Fees**

All permits, equipment (including a secondary water meter), annual backflow device inspection charges, and water dispensed through the secondary water service shall be charged to the Owner at a rate approved, and modified from time to time, by the Board of Water Commissioners. The secondary water service account will be treated as a separate account from the domestic service and will be subject to separate fees and charges from the original domestic service.