

Tewksbury Requirements for Secondary Meters

Authority and Purpose:

These regulations set forth uniform requirements for the installation of secondary water meters for the purpose of outside use only and not intended for domestic drinking water, commercial and manufacturing use.

These regulations shall apply to residential, commercial and industrial facilities within the Town of Tewksbury (Town) and to facilities outside the Town which are by contract or agreement with the Town, users of the Tewksbury Water system. These regulations amend existing “Town of Tewksbury Water Regulations and Fees”.

Department of Public Works, DPW, acting through the Superintendent of Public Works, shall implement and administer the provisions outlined within these rules and regulations.

Amend the following Section 2.0 “Definitions” by adding the following:

- 2.1.6 Applicant – Shall mean any property owner or duly authorized owner’s agent applying for a water service or for a water main extension, alteration, replacement or relocation.
- 2.1.7 Automated Meter Reading Device – Shall mean a device(s) used for reading a water meter without having to enter a premise.
- 2.1.8 Backflow – Shall mean the flow of water or other fluids, mixtures or substances into the distribution pipes of a potable supply of water from any source other than its intended source.
- 2.1.10 Backflow Prevention Device – Shall mean an approved mechanical device designed to prevent backflow.
- 2.1.11 Building Service Stub – Shall refer to the section of service connection pipe, where no secondary service or meter is present, from the interior wall of the facility to the shut-off valve located before the primary meter.
- 2.1.12 Cross-Connection – Shall mean any actual or possible connection between a distribution pipe of potable water supplied by the public water system and any waste pipe, soil pipe, sewer, drain or any other unapproved source. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the term “cross connection” shall also include any bypass arrangement, jumper connection, removal section, swivel or changeover connection and any other temporary or permanent connection through which backflow can or may occur.
- 2.1.13 Discontinuance – Shall mean a temporary cessation of water service at the premises.
- 2.1.14 Meter – Shall mean an instrument or device, including any appurtenances thereto, for measuring the flow of water.

- 2.1.15 Meter Transmitting Unit (MTU) – Shall mean an Automatic Meter Reading Device that transmits consumption data to a fixed collection network.
- 2.1.16 Plumber – Shall mean a person licensed as a plumber by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 2.1.17 Primary Water Meter – Also referred to as the domestic meter; this meter measures all water used inside the home or facility for drinking, cooking, bathing and other residential domestic, commercial and manufacturing process use. For the purposes of billing, water through the primary meter may, or may not, contribute to the wastewater collection system, including plumbing directed for outside use.
- 2.1.18 Public Water System – Shall mean a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, which includes but not limited to the Water Treatment Plant, booster pump stations, water mains and service taps and all other associated appurtenances.
- 2.1.19 Secondary Water Meter – Also referred to as irrigation meter or deduct meter; this meter measures all water used outside of the home or facility and shall not be used for residential domestic consumption, commercial or manufacturing process purposes. Waste water from the secondary meter shall not contribute to the wastewater collection system and must waste to the pervious ground.

**Amend the following section 3.0 “Permits”
to read:**

- 3.1 The owner must obtain all necessary permits from the Tewksbury Community Development Office before any work is started including, but not limited to, a plumbing permit and water application. Any application for a service must include drawing(s) of proposed water service, showing all pipes, valves, means and materials involved in the project, including all connections to outside faucets and irrigation system(s) if applicable, completed by a licensed plumber.

Amend by add following Section(s)

10.0 Secondary Meters:

- 10.0.1 The policy is to allow one secondary water meter to be installed in front of or before the primary meter for the purpose of outside use. Installation shall meet all State and Local plumbing codes and require an approved plumbing permit and inspection.

10.1.0 Regulations for Secondary Metering

- 10.1.1 The Town of Tewksbury DPW supplies water to all its water users for legal domestic, residential, commercial and industrial consumption, waste removal, water used in commercial and industrial processes, fire prevention, irrigation and other legal uses consistent with the typical purpose of a public water supply system. In order to allow for the fair and equitable use of the public water system, the following regulations shall be enforced.

- 10.1.2 No water user shall deliberately misuse, tamper with, misdirect, steal or cause to be stolen, water, by redirecting flow, by altering plumbing, removing, tampering with or damaging water measurement equipment.
- 10.1.3 Any water user found to have misused, tampered with, redirected, stolen or have caused to have been stolen water, by altering plumbing, redirecting water flow, removing and/or damaging water measurement equipment shall be subject to fines established by the Town Manager and/or discontinuation of secondary water meter service. Each day constitutes a new offense.
- 10.1.4 Any water user connected to the public water supply system, found to be using the water system inconsistent with any Local and/or State regulations shall be subject to penalties including, but not restricted to, fines and/or discontinuation of water service.
- 10.1.5 Any water user found to be in violation of local and/or state codes, rules and regulations may have their water service terminated immediately and without notice, if in the opinion of the DPW and/or its designee that the water user may cause immediate contamination, damage, or cause, or may cause a threat to public health of the water system.
- 10.1.6 All water users shall allow entry to premises for DPW employees and/or its designees, for the purpose of repairing, calibrating, replacing, reading or maintaining water measurement equipment and other appurtenances attached thereto.
- 10.1.7 All uses of secondary water meters shall be subject to the Town's water withdrawal permit as issued by the State Department of Conservation and Recreation. The use of secondary water meters shall require the observance of any or all conservation measures including water use bans.
- 10.1.8 All secondary water meters are considered un-necessary for the primary supply of water to a facility. At the discretion of the Town Manager, or if a hazard to public health is perceived or determined to be present, may order the discontinuation of the use of a secondary water meter.
- 10.1.9 Use of secondary water meters to provide water shall be operable only during the months of April 1st through October 31st, where the Town Manager has imposed no water bans.

10.2.0 Requirements for Installing Secondary Water Meters:

- 10.2.1 An applicant must be connected to the Town's sewer system prior to applying for a secondary water meter.
- 10.2.2 All secondary water meters shall be fixed network, radio-read type, complete with MTU. The DPW shall be the sole source for meters and MTU's. No outside purchases will be allowed.

- 10.2.3 In every instance where a secondary meter is attached to an outdoor sprinkler system, the sprinkler system must be equipped with an operable rain sensor switch.
- 10.2.4 If a water user applies for a permit to install a secondary water meter, the premises must be equipped with a primary meter and MTU consistent with Department of Environmental Protection's replacement standards. If the premise has not been retrofitted with a fixed network radio-read meter then the DPW will install a new primary meter and MTU before the work will be allowed to proceed, at the availability of DPW staff.
- 10.2.5 In the event that the applicant's building service stub weeps or is determined to be fragile or compromised the DPW may refuse to install the secondary meter until the building service stub has been replaced.
- 10.2.6 All secondary water meters shall be installed in front of and parallel to the primary meter and must be installed in a horizontal position. All secondary meter services shall be equipped with a downstream testable back flow device accessible from outside the facility, consistent with and as required by State regulations under 310 CMR 22.22. In addition, a rebuild kit for the backflow device or replacement device shall be on-site in accordance with State plumbing regulations. To insure no cross connections exist, backflow devices shall be tested annually by DPW staff, at an inspection fee determined by the Town Manager.
- 10.2.7 Installation of a secondary water meter by DPW staff shall be dependant on the available schedule.

Amend the following section 9.0 Fees

by adding:

- 9.4 All permits, installation charges, equipment, including a secondary water meter, and water dispensed through the secondary water meter shall be charged to the applicant at a rate approved, from time to time, by the Town Manager.
- 9.5 For secondary meters a charge shall be established for conservation purposes, which may be adjusted from time to time by the Town Manager.