GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTALLATION AND USE OF A WATER METER FOR IRRIGATION OR OTHER NON-DOMESTIC USE PURPOSES

This is a general list of requirements relative to the installation and use of a water meter for irrigation and other outdoor non-domestic use purposes in the Cohasset Water System. The property owner and their contractor should refer to the Cohasset Water Department Rules and Regulations and the standards of the Department for more detailed information. Additional special requirements may be added or modified as needed for a particular project.

WATER METERS

USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR IRRIGATION OR NON-DOMESTIC OUTDOOR USE

The Cohasset Water Department (CWD) shall furnish all meters which are the property of the CWD after installation. The size of the meter shall be 1-inch and installation shall be performed only by the CWD or its duly authorized agent. All costs and fees from the CWD related to the installation of the irrigation meter shall be included in the application and inspection fee. Consistent with policies and procedures for existing and primary service meters, the irrigation meter shall remain the property of the CWD after installation and shall be installed at no additional cost to the homeowner. Prior to installation of the meter, the owner shall complete the necessary plumbing modifications so that the premises are ready for meter installation. As is required with any “plumbing fixture” installations of water meters shall require a plumbing permit from the Cohasset Building Inspector's Department.

Unless otherwise directed by the CWD the location of the meter within an owner’s building shall be within an ample and suitable space, free from exposure to freezing. This space shall at all times be unobstructed and accessible to the CWD. The owner shall be responsible for any damages to the meter as a result of negligence or otherwise due to a location contrary to the recommendations of the CWD. The installation of meter pits will be reviewed on an individual basis.

The CWD may install a device within or on the outside of a building in a conveniently accessible location to enable routine meter readings without internal access to the owner’s building.

In accordance with the provision of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 165, Section 11, the CWD may enter the premises to examine or remove meters, pipes, fittings and work for supplying or regulating the supply of water and to ascertain the quantity of water consumed or supplied.

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All meters may be subjected to periodic tests by the CWD, and an owner may also request that their meter be tested at any time. Requested tests shall be performed at the owner’s expense by a CWD approved testing company.

No person shall bypass, tamper with, or prevent a meter from registering water consumption, and such acts shall be subject to the penalties stated in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 165, Section 11 and to such other penalties as the CWD may adopt.

BILLING AND RATES

All water meters used exclusively for irrigation or non-domestic outdoor water use shall be billed and are subject to the minimum fees and quarterly service charges in effect.

The quarterly consumption cost for customers with multiple meters will be based on the combined total of all water meters at the rates that are in effect.

All water meters used exclusively for irrigation or non-domestic outdoor water use will not be billed a fire service charge.

CROSS-CONNECTIONS & BACKFLOW DEVICE

No person shall maintain a cross-connection without an approved backflow device. Backflow devices shall comply with the provisions of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Drinking Water Regulation 310 CMR Section 22: Cross-Connections.

The owner at its expense shall install Backflow device and the installation shall be approved by the CWD.

After installation, all backflow devices shall be tested annually, at the owner’s expense, to insure continuous satisfactory operation.

The following sketch is intended to give a general layout of the irrigation water meter and backflow device. Actual layout will depend on site specific conditions and will be reviewed by the CWD.