



POLICY NO.: I-2
DATE ADOPTED: MAY 23, 2001
REVISED JUNE 20, 2012

TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS POLICY

Sewer Use Bill Abatement Policy

Purpose: The Town of West Boylston needs to define a policy on sewer use bill abatement. The Board of Sewer Commissioners needs to establish threshold criteria to be used to consider requests for sewer use bill adjustment or abatement. This policy shall only apply to single-family residential property.

Background: Abatement or adjustment of sewer use bills should only be granted under unusual circumstances, or after there is a documented failure of the water meter for the property for which an abatement is sought. The sewer use bill is predicated upon metered water consumption for those properties receiving water from the West Boylston Water District. A single-family residence may have metered water use greater than typical and expected, resulting in a higher-than-normal sewer use charge. Mechanical or plumbing problems or deficiencies may result in higher-than-normal water use. Some residential property owners use domestic water for lawn or garden irrigation or for swimming pools. The Town of West Boylston Sewer Use Regulations predicates sewer use charges for single-family residences on 100% of a household's domestic water usage for uses that do not result in discharge into the sanitary sewer system.

As of the date of the policy, domestic water is provided by the West Boylston Water District to most properties within the community. It is the responsibility of the West Boylston Water District to provide water meters to properties served by the water distribution system, and residents must comply with the regulations and requirements of the West Boylston Water District relative to multiple water meters, if any.

Policy: This policy is applicable to single-family residential property only. All other types of property and development are excluded from this policy. Abatement of a sewer use bill is the exception, and the intent of this policy is to discourage sewer use bill abatement.

Failure to secure a second water meter from the West Boylston Water District shall not be a reason for granting an abatement of a sewer use bill.

Documented mechanical failure of a water meter may be a reason for a request for abatement. Property owners seeks abatement shall provide the following for the Board of Sewer Commissioners review and consideration:

1. official documentation from the West Boylston Water District that there was a water meter failure,
2. water use documentation for a minimum of two years, if possible, and
3. documentation that all other charges and bills, including real estate and excise tax bills, are paid and current.

Residential properties that receive a second (sewer) meter from the West Boylston Water District for irrigation or pool recharge purposes will be charged the residential sewer use rate (Tier 1) for one hundred percent (100%) of the water usage for domestic purposes, or for one hundred percent (100%) of the difference between the volume of water metered by the first (water) meter reduced by the volume of water metered by second (sewer) meter.

The Town of West Boylston reserves the right to inspect the property, and should it be ascertained that water metered for irrigation or pool recharge purposes (non-domestic water) is being discharged into the sanitary sewer system will result in the discontinuance of billing off the second (sewer) meter, and will result in billing at eighty percent (100%) of the total water usage in conformity with the Sewer Use Rate And Fee Schedule.

Use of a second (sewer) meter as the basis for a sewer use bill for single-family residential properties is a privilege, not a right, and as such, the Town of West Boylston reserves the right to discontinue billing sewer use from a second (sewer) meter.