

**TOWN OF CHESTER  
WATER DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS**

Sec. 1-1. Applications for Water Service

Applications for service are to be made at the Chester Town Office by the owner of the property or his/her agent.

Sec. 1-2. Availability of Service

The acceptance of an application will be contingent upon: a) the existence of a water main in the public or private way, or on other abutting property; and b) adequate water pressure.

Sec. 1-3. Fees

The fee for new taps for water service is \$2,500. This will include the excavation and discovery of the main, tapping of the main, service saddle if needed, corporation, copper or ductile iron pipe line, and a curb stop or appropriate valve.

Sec. 1-4. Service Connections

All water service connections shall be installed by the Town of Chester and in accordance with its specifications.

Sec. 1-5. Ownership and Maintenance of Service Line

- A. All new service lines to the curb stop, including the shutoff, shall be installed, owned, and maintained by the Town of Chester. The customer shall install, maintain, and own the service line from the curb stop to the building. For all existing services, the liability of the Town shall end at the curb stop regardless of location.
- B. The cost of a service line installed for future use shall be paid by the Town until utilized by the customer, at which time the customer will be charged a tapping fee.
- C. If it becomes necessary to thaw a frozen service line, the customer shall pay the cost unless it cannot be determined where it is frozen in which case the customer will be asked to pay half of the cost.

- D. The customer is responsible for repairing leaks in the service line from curb stop to the building in a reasonable amount of time.
- E. Standards for pipe for service lines:
  - 1. Minimum size pipe for service lines is 3/4 inch.
  - 2. Tap sizes allowed are 3/4, 1, 2, 4 and 6 inch.
  - 3. Recommended pipe for service lines:
    - a. 3/4, 1 and 2 inch K copper
    - b. 4 and 6 inch Ductile Iron pipe
  - 4. New valves, if they are main-line gate valves or services (curb stops), will open left.
  - 5. Minimum bury depth is 5-1/2 feet unless otherwise authorized.
  - 6. All services will be metered.
  - 7. No one is allowed to operate a Town-owned gate valve, service valve, or curb stop without authorization from the Town of Chester.

#### Sec. 1-6. Interior Plumbing Requirements

Every service must be provided with an operable valve on each side of the water meter; a 1/4 turnball valve is recommended. Also required in the area of the water meter is a Dual Check backflow preventer, 150 psi or more, and a pressure reducer of 50 psi. Such valves must be protected from freezing and the cost of these valves shall be borne by the customer.

No faucets or other openings will be allowed on the street side of the backflow preventer.

#### Sec. 1-7. Meters

Ownership of all water meters registering measurements of all water upon which charges are based shall be vested in the Town of Chester.

- A. General: All water sold by the utility shall be on the basis of meter measurements or as otherwise provided in the rate schedule adopted by the Board of Selectmen. The Town of Chester may install meters whenever it is deemed expedient. The size of meter will be determined by the Town of Chester.

- B. Meter Setting: All meters shall be installed as close as possible to the side of the building where the water main is located. The customer shall provide and maintain a clean, dry, warm and accessible place for the meter, and is responsible for installing the appropriate fixtures to allow the meter to be set in a horizontal position. The cost of installation and maintenance of meters below one inch in size will be borne by the Town of Chester; the customer will be billed for the installation of meters 1-1/2 inch and larger. The Town of Chester will assume subsequent maintenance and ownership of the meter. In the case of a damaged meter, the Town of Chester shall immediately ascertain the cause and extent of such damage, and shall assess the owner for the cost of repairing the meter to its original condition.
  
- C. Meter Accuracy: In any case where the accuracy of a meter is challenged by a customer, the meter shall be tested at the customer's request. If tests show that such meter is accurate within three (3) percent for such meter, the customer shall be held liable for the cost of such removal and test. If the meter tests above the limits specified, the Town of Chester shall assume all costs of such removal and test and shall adjust the billing in question in an equitable manner.
  
- D. Disconnection: No person, except Town of Chester personnel, shall disconnect any meter or place, replace, move, remove, or disturb any meter in any manner whatsoever. This applies to meter head, remote outside readers, and any connecting wiring. This does not apply to customers connecting fixtures or pipes. This article shall not be construed to render the Town of Chester liable for any portion of any service.
  
- E. Repairs: Customers should contact a licensed plumber only for repairs to their service line, fixtures, inside plumbing or pipes. It is illegal for anyone to tamper with the meter, wiring, or remote outside reader without express permission from the Town of Chester.

WARNING: Any person or persons known to willfully perform malicious acts, tampering, contamination, damage or destruction of a public water system is committing a felony and will be prosecuted.

- F. Access to Meters: The customer will be required to allow access to meter for periodic maintenance, readings, and inspections, by appointment whenever feasible.

#### Sec. 1-8. Discontinuance of Service

- A. Bills for water service are due and payable when issued and shall be considered delinquent when unpaid after thirty (30) days. Service may be discontinued for delinquency in payment of water bills or for violation of any rule or regulation contained herein.

- B. Before service is disconnected for delinquency, the Town will follow a reasonable procedure to effect payment as required in 24 V.S.A., Section 141 et seq.

#### Sec. 1-9. Notice of Service Connection/Disconnection

Twenty-four (24) hour notice shall be required when a customer requests connection or disconnection of service and such changes in service shall take place only during the regular business hours of the Town of Chester.

#### Sec. 1-10. Emergencies

Water service may be interrupted to any customer at any time when, in the opinion of the Town of Chester, an emergency or other unusual circumstance exists. Such interruption of service shall not be considered an excuse to forgive any charges or other liability assessed against the property in question.

#### Sec. 1-11. Estimated Bills

When the meter reader is unable to gain access to a customer's property on the normal meter reading date, an invoice will be rendered based on estimated water use.

#### Sec. 1-12. Crossconnections

No new crossconnection may be installed without the approval of the State Department of Health and the Town of Chester. No crossconnection between the public water supply system and any other supply will be allowed unless properly protected in accordance with the policy of the State Department of Health. In addition, no connection capable of causing backflow into the public water supply system through a plumbing fixture, appliance, or waste outlet having direct connection to waste drains will be permitted. If the owner of such a connection does not remedy it within a time limit specified by the utility, service shall be discontinued.

#### Sec. 1-13. General Service Conditions

- A. All customers having direct pressure water devices, including but not limited to hot water tanks or secondary systems supplied by automatic feed valves, should have installed and maintained in operating condition appropriate vacuum, temperature and pressure relief

valves or cutouts in the water system and secondary system to prevent damage to the water device or secondary system or their appurtenances should it become necessary to shut off the water main or service or should a pressure failure occur for any other reason. Water service supplied to any customer not providing such protective devices will be strictly at the risk of the customer. The Town of Chester will not be held liable for damage resulting from the lack of or failure of such protective devices.

- B. If, by reason of temporary shortage of supply or for the purpose of making repairs, extensions, connections, or placing or replacing meter or for any reason beyond the control of the Town of Chester, it becomes necessary to shut off water in a main or service, the Town of Chester will not be responsible for any damages caused by such shutoff. In addition, no adjustment of rates will be allowed unless the interruption is in effect for a continuous period in excess of ten (10) days in which instance a proportional adjustment of rates will be made. Notice of shutoff will be given when practical but nothing in these Regulations shall be construed as requiring such notice.
- C. No customer shall utilize any service pipe or interior plumbing as the building electrical ground, unless such grounding is in accordance with National Electrical Code.
- E. The Town of Chester will not be responsible for damage caused by discolored water or unsatisfactory water service which may be occasioned by cleaning of pipes, reservoirs, or standpipes or the opening or closing of any valves or hydrants or any abnormal condition unless caused by lack of reasonable care on the part of the Town of Chester. The Town of Chester will not be responsible for meeting unusually high water quality standards for specialized or industrial customers.
- F. The Town of Chester will attempt to maintain standard system pressure not exceeding one hundred seventy-five (175) pounds p.s.i. and will not be required to render service where normal system pressures may be expected to fall below thirty-five (35) pounds p.s.i. In the event that a prospective customer desires service with the full understanding that normal system pressures may fall below that limit, service will be rendered only upon completion of a limited service contract. Where a customer feels that the system pressures within the above range are higher than his plumbing or apparatus can endure, it shall be the responsibility of the customer to install a suitable pressure reducing device.

#### Sec. 1-14. Fluctuation of Pressures by Customer's Apparatus

No customer shall install or use water consumption apparatus which will affect the Town of Chester's pressure or operating conditions so as to interfere with the service of another customer. Where a customer has or proposes to install an apparatus which requires water in sudden and material quantities, impairing the pressure to the detriment, damage, or disadvantage of other customers, the Town of Chester reserves the right to require such customer to install devices or

an apparatus which will confine such fluctuation of demand and pressure within reasonable limits determined by the Town of Chester. If the customer, after receiving written notice from the Town of Chester, fails to present an acceptable remedial plan within a time limit set by the Town of Chester, service will be discontinued.

#### Sec. 1-15. Fire Hydrants

- A. No one will operate or tamper with any fire hydrant without expressed authorization of the Town of Chester.
- B. The Town of Chester will operate and flush hydrants twice annually, with periodic maintenance performed as required.
- C. Customers will not build up or fill in around hydrant bases without the express permission of the Town of Chester. Hydrants must be buried at the proper depth in order for the safety flanges to function properly. The safety flange is designed to break away if the hydrant is struck in order not to damage the underlying water main.
- D. No customer shall obtain water from any hydrant or other fixture of the Town of Chester without previous consent.

#### Sec. 1-16. Private Fire Protection

- A. The Town of Chester may render a special service to private property for private fire protection purposes. Applications may be made by the owner of the property or his authorized agent and will be subject to all the provisions contained herein. Connection charge for such service shall be as determined by resolution of the Board of Selectmen.
- B. The applicant must furnish a complete and correct drawing or set of drawings showing the location of the premises to be supplied together with the location of all valves, pipes, hydrants, tanks, sprinkler heads and other appurtenances on the premises at the time of making application. The plans will remain the property of the Town of Chester. The applicant also agrees to furnish the Town of Chester with drawings showing any revisions made to piping or appurtenances
- C. An annual charge may be deemed necessary by the Select Board to provide the service of private fire protection. The Town of Chester expressly reserves the right to determine the necessity for and the advisability of granting any application for this special service, and the right to determine the size of the service line which will be granted depending on the size of the street main, the available pressure on the main, and the nature and capacity of

the fire protection equipment within the building.

#### Sec. 1-17. Water Main Extensions

- A. Requests for street main extensions must be made in writing to the Town Offices. When such a request is received, the Town of Chester will survey the area to be serviced and estimate the cost of such extensions. All street main extensions will be made by the Town of Chester or under its direct supervision and in accordance with its specifications.
- B. When the application involves a subdivision approved by the Planning Commission, the developer must deposit with the Town of Chester an amount equal to the estimated cost of the water main construction before the construction will be authorized. The cost shall be determined upon the completion of the work. If the deposit is in excess of the cost, such excess shall be refunded to the applicant. If the cost exceeds the deposit, the applicant shall pay the balance before any water may be made available.
- C. No water main shall be laid or extended except upon order of the Board of Selectmen.
- D. The Board of Selectmen may levy new special assessments to meet the costs incurred by laying water pipes in public and private ways. The whole cost of laying each such pipe shall be assessed upon the parcels of land abutting the way in which it is laid.

#### Sec. 1-18. Water Conservation

When necessary to conserve the water supply, the Town of Chester may restrict the use of water by its customers.

#### Sec. 1-19. Right of Entry

Employees of the Town of Chester having proper identification shall have free access to all premises supplied with water, at all reasonable hours, to permit the inspection of plumbing and fixtures, to set, remove or read meters, to ascertain the amount of water used and manner of use, and to enforce these Regulations.

#### Sec. 1-20. Water Quality

All water quality testing and monitoring shall follow EPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, EPA 811-F-95-003-C, and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Protection Rules, Chapter 21, Water Supply Rules.

#### Sec. 1-21. Adoption

These Regulations were adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2000.

\_\_\_/s/ Carol L. Balch\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_/s/ William A. Lincoln\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_/s/ Michael J. LeClair\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_/s/ William L. Lindsay\_\_\_\_\_

Selectmen, Town of Chester