

TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT WATER ORDINANCE

#2009-04-21

Amended: 03/23/2021

Effective: 5/22/2021

Regulating the Use of Fair Haven's Municipal Water System

This ORDINANCE establishes the policies, rules, and regulations necessary to govern and operate the "community public water system" of the Town of Fair Haven, Vermont (24 V.S.A, Chapter 89, Section 3315). This ORDINANCE supersedes all previous rules, regulations and ordinances and applies to all users regardless of the municipality in which they are located. All existing agreements between individual property owners and the Town of Fair Haven, Vermont shall remain in effect provided such agreement is recorded in the Town of Fair Haven Clerk's Office. A copy of this ORDINANCE is available at the Town Clerk's Office. Questions about this ORDINANCE should be directed to the Fair Haven Town Manager.

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ARTICLE 2

Definitions

SECTION 2.01 – DEFINITIONS

Unless specifically defined in this Article, words and phrases used in this ORDINANCE shall have their common ordinary meaning, and are intended to give this ORDINANCE its most reasonable application.

"Applicant" shall mean "Owner" and can, also, mean "Customer".

"Best interest" shall mean the BOARD'S action or step it thinks to be the most advantageous to the TOWN, under the circumstances, and may include meeting economic development or community institutional needs. This power is conferred where it is impossible to anticipate every eventuality, or where the need for deliberate decisions or calculated response is critical.

"BOARD" shall mean the Fair Haven Selectboard, comprised as the Water Commissioners as provided in 24 V.S.A., Chapter 89. (See "Water Commissioners")

"Business days" shall mean Monday through Thursday, excluding legal holidays and the day before any day when the TOWN Office is not open to the public.

"Chief Operator" shall mean that person appointed by the BOARD to act as the BOARD's agent in managing the day to day operations of the Water Department. It shall be the duty of the Chief Operator to ensure the regulations and policies of the Water Department are implemented and enforced. Decisions of the Chief Operator may be appealed within thirty (30) calendar days to the BOARD.

"Clerk" shall mean the Fair Haven Town Clerk.

"Committed Reserve Capacity" shall mean the total amount of development water supply (gallons per day) for all projects/buildings approved by the BOARD and the DEPARTMENT, for supply, storage, and distribution, but not yet connected to the water system at the time of the calculation.

"Completed Construction" shall mean -

1. For building development; completion of construction of all foundations, framing, siding and roofs.
2. For subdivision development; completion of infrastructure and subdivision improvements.

"Customer" means any individual, group, society, association, firm, company, or corporation who receives water service from the TOWN and is a property owner, whether or not that individual is the ultimate user. In the case where a residential dwelling (or business rental unit with distinct space and a separate entrance) is owned/leased by the occupant(s) but the occupant(s) lease the land upon which the dwelling/business unit is located (e.g., a mobile home in a mobile home

"Health Officer" shall mean the legally designated Health Officer or Deputy Health Officer of the TOWN.

"Hearing Officer" shall mean the person appointed by the TOWN, pursuant to 24 V.S.A., Chapter 129, Section 5147, to act as a fact finder and to hear and investigate evidence, and to make recommendations to the BOARD for final determination of a dispute.

"Connection" shall mean the portion of the water system that runs from the Town curb stop to the CUSTOMER'S structures and includes all necessary fittings.

✓ "Independent Water Meter" Shall mean a water meter that measures water that is used for outdoor use only and does not discharge into the sanitary sewer

"Initiate Construction" shall mean -

1. For building development; the completion of the foundation.
2. For subdivision development; substantial commencement of any site improvement(s) pursuant to the approved subdivision and infrastructure plans.

"Interest" means the fee (charged in the form of a percentage) by the TOWN to a CUSTOMER on the portion of a bill that remains unpaid and delinquent. Refer to "Delinquency" and "Due Date".

"Municipality" shall mean the Town of Fair Haven, Vermont.

"One-Time Water System Fee" or "System Fee" shall mean the financial amount due, as determined by the BOARD, charged to CUSTOMERS for the benefit to connect to the TOWN's water system.

"Owner" shall mean any person, who owns or possess any property connected to the municipal water system or proposes to connect to the municipal water system as applicant. The term "owner" is interchangeable with CUSTOMER.

"Payment of a Bill and/or Other Charge" means receipt at the Town Office of cash, check, money order, or other financial instrument acceptable to the BOARD which is subsequently honored.

"Permit to Operate" shall mean a permit issued by the Department pursuant to authority granted in 10 V.S.A., Chapter 47.

"Person" shall mean any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation, institution, partnership, group, governmental entity or other entity.

"Physician's Certificate" shall mean a written statement by a duly licensed medical practitioner certifying that a CUSTOMER or resident within the CUSTOMER'S household or a CUSTOMER'S tenant would suffer an immediate and serious health hazard by the disconnection of the TOWN's service to that household. The certificate will be considered valid and in force for 30 days, or the duration of the hazard, whichever is less. Said written statement shall indicate

"Water Commissioners shall mean the members of the Selectboard (BOARD) and/or the group of individuals who shall be designated from time to time by the BOARD to serve as their duly authorized deputy, agent, or representative.

"Water Department" is that subdivision of the TOWN government which is responsible for providing municipal water service.

"Water Main" shall mean the TOWN-owned water transmission pipe laid longitudinally along streets or other rights-of-way and that all CUSTOMERS have equal rights and that is controlled by public authority and designed to carry water, pursuant to the ARTICLES of the ORDINANCE contained herein.

"Water Service Area" shall mean that area of properties connected to the TOWN'S water system.

"Water Service Line" shall mean the water transmission pipe laid longitudinally from a Water Main to an Owner's property that is designed to carry water to the Owner. The curb stop is located on the service line, typically closer to the Water Main. In general, the Owner is responsible for the proper upkeep and maintenance of the service line from the curb stop to the structural connection (e.g., house or business) or other point of termination. The Town, in general, is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the service line from the Water Main to the curb stop. Refer to Section 6.07 for regulations related to the thawing of frozen Water Service Lines.

"Water System" see "Public Water Supply System or Facilities".

"Water Treatment Plant" shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating and the production of potable water for the CUSTOMERS of the TOWN'S water system.

"Winter Shut-down Policy" To prevent causing damages the water system; the Fair Haven Water Department shall not disconnect water supply from customers from November 15th to April 1st or as weather permits as determined by the Department of Public Works Superintendent.

ARTICLE 4

Water Meters

SECTION 4.00 – WATER METER POLICY

It is the general policy of the TOWN to have one (1) water meter per dwelling/business unit, including multi-family units, apartment houses, etc. Any situation different from this general policy shall be decided by the Town Manager. Decisions by the Town Manager in this section are appealable by the CUSTOMER to the BOARD within thirty (30) days from the date of the Town Manager's decision.

SECTION 4.01 – WATER METERS

All water, except as otherwise provided, will be sold by meter. Meters shall be read by the TOWN's authorized agents on a frequency established by the BOARD, but no less than quarterly in any fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Refer to Article 12 for Prohibitions and Penalties for Violation of Rules.

Except when otherwise provided, meters shall be furnished and owned by the TOWN and shall be located in satisfactory locations to protect against frost and other damage. In no case shall the TOWN deliver water through any meter over which it does not have exclusive control.

Only the TOWN, or its authorized agent, may install or remove water meters.

SECTION 4.02 - INDEPENDENT WATER METERS

Any CUSTOMER may request an Independent Water Meter for outdoor water use be exempt from sewer charges. However, the Town reserves the right to deny any request it deems unfit for the use of an Independent Water Meter as defined below.

- A. Plumbing required to establish an Independent Water Meter: Connection will be the responsibility of the CUSTOMER and will require a licensed professional plumber. Installation is at the homeowner's expense. An Independent Water Meter shall only be valid after the Fair Haven Water Department inspects the proposed connection and after all criteria are met regarding its installation. The Fair Haven Water Department must inspect the final connection of the Independent Water Meter. The town of Fair Haven will supply the Independent Water Meter.
- B. After installation, no sewer charges will be assessed to any water used through this meter. The CUSTOMER shall be responsible for all other charges associated with the meter including Base Rate to the account whether the meter is in used or not.
- C. Criteria for Installation of Independent Meters: All requirements regarding water meters as stated in this ordinance shall apply. The Independent Water Meter shall be installed in parallel with the Primary Meter so that no usage recorded through it is also recorded through the Primary Meter. The Independent Water Meter shall have a

- B. Customers are eligible for the free meter replacement one time. Multiple requests for meter replacement and usage monitoring will not be considered.

SECTION 4.04 – METER ACCESSIBILITY

Inspectors of the Water Department or persons so authorized by the BOARD must have free and clear access to every building and other installation for the purpose of inspecting, removing, repairing, or replacing water meters.

SECTION 4.05 – REMOTE READERS

Wherever practical, meter remotes shall be installed in order to facilitate the reading of meters. Remotes shall not be required in buildings accessible to the public and to TOWN employees during normal business hours.

Should circumstances change so that a meter in a public building is not accessible to the TOWN's authorized agents during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday) the installation of a meter remote will be required at the CUSTOMER'S expense.

B. Allocation Principles

Subsequent to application of the allocation priority, uncommitted reserve capacity in the PLANT may be allocated to specific projects according to the following procedure:

1. Once water capacity allocation applications have been received at the TOWN Office, the BOARD may review the applications on a first come, first serve basis. The total remaining uncommitted reserve capacity shall be allocated by the BOARD, in a manner consistent with the TOWN's allocation priorities. The total uncommitted reserve capacity shall be reviewed by the BOARD every six (6) months and committed reserve shall be regularly recorded and updated for use in allocation decisions.
2. The BOARD retains the right to review applications and make allocations on other than a first come, first serve basis if they find such action is in the TOWN's best interest.

SECTION 5.05 – APPLICATION PROCESS INTRODUCTION

Application for a new water connection to the water system or for the change of an existing connection must be made by the property owner (applicant), or his/her duly authorized agent, and will be subject to all provisions and specifications that the TOWN may require.

Persons who own property or plan to purchase property connected to the municipal water system which they plan to develop or to further develop, thereby creating a new use, expanding/decreasing existing use, or a change in use, shall submit a letter outlining those plans to the BOARD along with the appropriate application forms available at the TOWN Offices.

The TOWN shall at no time authorize more new water services than it can supply. The TOWN shall be under no obligation to commit to any development any portion of its capacity, but may allocate its capacity amongst the various types of uses as the TOWN deems most appropriate.

Boundaries of areas served by the municipal water system shall be defined by the TOWN and the furnishing of water outside of the boundaries shall be at the discretion of the BOARD. The BOARD should prepare and periodically update a GIS-based map of the municipal water system boundary area.

Applicants who purchase, or otherwise take possession of property currently served by the municipal water system, and who wish to continue to receive this service at that location, shall complete and submit the form prescribed by the BOARD and any required fee(s).

SECTION 5.06 – APPLICATION PROCESS SUBMITTALS

A. Applicants wishing to use the TOWN's water system shall apply to the BOARD on forms prescribed by the BOARD. Such applications shall:

1. Include a calculation of the applicant's water flow basis generated by the project/development. If the applicant's water flow basis exceeds 1,000 gpd, the calculations shall be certified by a Vermont registered Professional Engineer.

- D. Specification that the recipient of the Preliminary Water Capacity Allocation Approval may not, by any means, transfer this approval to any other person or connect to the water system. If there is a change from the original application, then the applicant must reapply and the revised project will be considered a new project.

SECTION 5.09 – FINAL CAPACITY ALLOCATION PERMIT APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

Prior to Final Water Capacity Allocation Permit approval, the following requirements shall be met by the applicant:

- A. The applicant's plans and specifications for connection to and, if necessary, extension of the municipal water system have been submitted and are acceptable to the BOARD. The requirement for plans and specifications may be waived by the BOARD until the Water Connection Permit application is submitted to the TOWN.
- B. Applicable local, State and Federal permits have been secured for the development/project;
- C. All local fees or taxes set by the BOARD have been paid in full to the TOWN. The BOARD shall establish the fees in the TOWN's Schedule of Rates and Fees.
 - A. Financial Hardship Case.
The due date for the applicable fees may be extended by the BOARD. Said applicant may file its request in writing to the BOARD, for BOARD review. All fees, however, shall be paid by the applicant at the time when the Water Connection Permit application is submitted to the TOWN.
- D. The applicant shall schedule and pay the TOWN for the physical construction of its service connection to the TOWN's water system.

SECTION 5.10 – FINAL CAPACITY ALLOCATION PERMIT APPROVAL CONDITIONS

A Final Water Capacity Allocation Permit is an agreement between the TOWN and the applicant. The applicant who is issued this permit does not own the capacity and forfeits all rights to capacity if Preliminary Capacity Allocation Approval and/or Final Capacity Allocation Permit conditions are not met.

The BOARD may approve the project as proposed, recommend or require changes, or reject the application for cause. The BOARD, on making affirmative findings that all conditions of the Preliminary Water Capacity Allocation Approval prerequisites in SECTION 5.08 of this Article have been fulfilled, shall issue the Final Water Capacity Allocation Permit, which may be conditioned as follows:

- A. The committed reserve capacity allocation is not transferable to any other person or project unless requested by the original applicant and approved by the BOARD. However, a new application must be submitted.

development. These Final Water Capacity Allocation Permits shall expire after two (2) years from the date of subdivision approval unless the Owner has sold the lot for development or has completed construction in accordance with the approved development plan. The expiration at two (2) years from original issuance shall not be modified by any revisions to the subdivision or development plan subsequent to the preliminary subdivision approval.

The reserve capacity allotted to lots that are either unsold or do not have building construction completed at the time of permit expiration shall revert to the TOWN without refund of any fees paid. Reserve capacity shall also revert to the TOWN from any reductions made to the development water demand planned for each lot subsequent to preliminary subdivision approval.

When the owner of a subdivision sells individual lots within the two (2) year time frame, the Final Water Capacity Allocation Permit shall transfer when the property transfers and the new Owner becomes bound to comply with all permits issued and the plans and specifications for connecting to the municipal water system. The transferred permit shall be considered a new Final Water Capacity Allocation Permit issued on the date of property transfer and the constraints of this ORDINANCE shall apply to this permit. The permit shall expire as provided in the approved permit.

SECTION 5.13 – TRANSFER OF ALLOCATION

Reserve capacity is initially allocated by the BOARD to a specific applicant, project and parcel of land, however, the allocation does not automatically run with the land during project construction.

The capacity allocation belongs to the TOWN and is not transferable until the project/building/development is constructed and properly connected (i.e., to the satisfaction of the DPW Superintendent) to the TOWN's main water line. The transfer of the capacity allocation is prohibited unless approved in writing by the BOARD at the original Owner's request.

The BOARD may approve transfer of capacity from one project to another and one Owner to another provided the new project and new Owner meet all the requirements for the Final Water Capacity Allocation Permit approval originally issued and the original Owner co-applies with the new Owner for such transfer.

SECTION 5.14 – CONNECTION PERMIT APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

The construction of the water service connection/tap and, if necessary, the municipal water line extension, must meet the TOWN requirement for TOWN oversight.

The Owner shall complete and submit a Water Connection Permit Application to the TOWN along with the applicable fees at least forty-five (45) calendar days in advance of any proposed water connection construction. This permit will expire two (2) years from the date of the BOARD'S approval. If construction of and connection to the municipal water system is not complete after two (2) years, reserve capacity shall revert back to the TOWN and **there shall be no refund** of system fees, application, or other fees paid. The BOARD may issue time extension(s) upon the request of the Owner. For each extension granted, the maximum extension is one (1) year and requires an additional application fee.

ARTICLE 6

Construction Phase

SECTION 6.01 – CONSTRUCTION PHASE

After all permits for construction are obtained and all construction approvals are obtained, construction may proceed.

SECTION 6.02 – PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

It shall be the responsibility of the Owner to schedule a pre-construction meeting between the Owner, or the Owner's agent, the contractor(s) and the TOWN's authorized agent at least fifteen (15) days prior to beginning any excavation relating to installation of any water lines or appurtenance(s). It is understood that the Contract Agreement between the TOWN and the contractor, if applicable, is executed prior to the pre-construction meeting.

- A. This meeting, which shall be held at the site of the planned project with the approved Connection Permit on hand, is to review with the contractor(s) the TOWN's requirements and to familiarize the contractor(s) with the site conditions, which may, in the opinion of the TOWN's agent, bear review.
- B. If there is a change in contractor(s) after the date of the pre-construction meeting, the Owner shall schedule another pre-construction meeting before commencing/continuing with construction.
- C. During the pre-construction meeting the TOWN's authorized agent shall keep a record of all the items discussed and/or required by the TOWN.
- D. The Owner shall attest that it recognizes the authority of the TOWN's authorized agent at the site to halt work if he/she determines that the work is not being performed in a manner consistent with the standards of the Water Department or in accordance with the standards or written specifications to which the Owner has agreed.
 - 1. The Owner shall further attest that it shall not hold the TOWN liable for work stoppages occasioned by such actions.
- E. The Owner shall attest that he/she shall not hold the TOWN liable for loss or damage that may directly or indirectly result from the performance of the permitted activity.
- F. The Owner shall attest that he/she agrees to pay all costs and expenses related to the permitted work including, but not limited to, street damage, damage to underground and aboveground utility lines, which result from the performance of the permitted activity.
 - 1. The Owner will have the road cut returned to its original condition within 30 days of the water connection. (added 6-18-19)

- F. The Owner shall be responsible for maintaining in good repair all plumbing on the Owner's side of the curb stop. This shall include the maintenance and cost of maintenance for repairing breaks and/or leaks in, or replacement of, the service line on the Owner's side of the curb stop, for repairing or replacing faulty household plumbing, and for repairing or replacing fixtures which, when not functioning properly, discourage, or tend to discourage the inspection, removal or replacement of the water meter by authorized persons.
- G. The Owner shall be responsible for all costs of such maintenance whether the maintenance is undertaken at the Owner's discretion or upon the order of the TOWN, or its authorized designee.

SECTION 6.04 – AUTOMATIC FIRE SUPPRESSION “SPRINKLER” SYSTEMS

Applicants proposing to install a sprinkler system shall submit a letter requesting approval to do so stating the estimated maximum flow requirements of the system and outlining the details of the sprinkler system. Sprinkler systems may be approved contingent upon meeting applicable State codes. In addition, the applicant shall submit an application for water service.

The TOWN may decline to supply service, in whole or in part, to any sprinkler system if, in the determination of the BOARD, the system would place undue adverse demands upon any portion of the TOWN's water system.

The applicant shall furnish the TOWN with a complete set of drawings and related technical specifications, prepared by a licensed engineer, which show the locations of the premises to be sprinklered and the location of all valves, pipes, hydrants, tanks, sprinkler heads and other appurtenances. Once submitted, these plans will remain the property of the TOWN. The applicant shall also furnish “as-built” drawings and additional drawings of any later revisions to piping or appurtenances when they are made.

All sprinkler systems shall be subject to periodic inspections by the TOWN for the purpose of determining water usage only. The Owners of these systems will give the TOWN inspectors all reasonable assistance in making the inspection and will give all required information about the system. Inspections will be made with as little inconvenience to the Owner as possible.

SECTION 6.05 – FIRE HYDRANTS

The TOWN may install public fire hydrants wherever and whenever it deems necessary.

The TOWN will consider written requests for the installation of public fire hydrants by Owners connected to the system.

The TOWN will consider official requests for the installation of public fire hydrants by the Fair Haven Fire Department.

The TOWN may require any applicant for new or expanded service to install public fire hydrants in its project as a condition for receiving approval to connect to the water system. The number

Seasonal Interruption of Service

- A. Seasonal requests of Owners to temporarily disconnect water service are permitted at the expense of the Owner. Only qualified TOWN employees may conduct the physical disconnection. The cost to the Owner for each request shall equal the sum of the TOWN employee(s) time at their hourly rate including any overtime rate to disconnect the water service and, if necessary, the water meter plus the TOWN employee(s) time at their hourly rate including any overtime rate to reconnect the water service and, if necessary, the water meter after the seasonal term. During the seasonal period of disconnection, the Owner shall be responsible for any water/sewer rates, including any BOARD sanctioned base rates.

SECTION 6.07 – STEAM THAWING OF FROZEN WATER SERVICE LINES

- A. When a service line freezes, it may not be possible to determine where the freezing has occurred until the shut-off has been tested and the pipe has been thawed.
 - 1. Electrical thawing is prohibited by the TOWN. However, in a situation of last resort, the TOWN only may conduct electrical thawing where the plumbing configuration is such that steam thawing equipment cannot adequately access the frozen section of pipe (i.e., 90° angles or tuberculation of pipes). In these situations, the TOWN shall retain the services of a qualified vendor (who shall provide adequate proof of insurance) to conduct such electrical thawing to be paid according to the regulations outlined in subsections B., C., and D. contained herein.
 - 2. The TOWN will maintain work records, by at least property address, related to water line freezing.
 - 3. Regardless of year and notwithstanding the requirements of B., C., and D. in this subsection, a water service that freezes at least once during each of three (3) consecutive winter/early spring seasons shall be excavated as soon as possible and the necessary steps taken to prevent the water service from freezing again. In this instance, the entire cost of excavation and prevention steps shall be borne by the responsible entity (i.e., Town on Town side of shut off, Customer on customer side of shut off, or if on both sides of the shut off then proportionately determined based on each responsible party's length of water service).
- B. If the TOWN determines that the service line was frozen only on the customer's side of the curb stop, the customer shall be responsible for the cost of labor and equipment provided by the TOWN to thaw the customer's water connection. Additionally, it shall be the customer's responsibility to take such steps as will prevent freezing from reoccurring.
- C. If the TOWN determines that the service line was frozen on the TOWN's side of the shut-off the Town will be responsible for the total to thaw the public water supply system as needed.

- B. If the mailing address of the Owner and the property address are different, the TOWN shall also deliver a notice in hand to an adult at the property affected or leave a copy of the notice at the building if in hand notification to an adult cannot be accomplished.
- C. The notice of hearing shall indicate that the TOWN has recommended that the water to the property be disconnected. The notice shall also indicate that the Owner has until the date of the hearing to repair or otherwise correct the leak.
- D. If repairs are made to the satisfaction of the TOWN's Chief Operator and DPW Superintendent, they shall notify the BOARD and the hearing shall be cancelled. In that event, notice of cancellation shall be mailed to the Owner by first class mail.
- E. If the Owner does not believe that there is a leak or there are other circumstances that the Owner or occupants believe the BOARD should consider, the Owner and occupants are entitled to attend the hearing of the BOARD and be heard. In the alternative, the Owner and occupants may also submit a written response to the BOARD.
- F. If a hearing is conducted and the BOARD is not satisfied that the leak has been repaired or corrected; it may issue an order instructing TOWN employees to disconnect the water at the curb stop to such property on the second business day following the date of the order. A copy of the order shall be mailed or delivered to the Owner and occupants in the manner described in subsection 6.08.A, above.
- G. If water is disconnected in accordance with such an order, the Owner will be required to satisfy the TOWN that the leak has been repaired or otherwise corrected and pay any outstanding balance on the account before the TOWN authorizes the water to be reconnected.
- H. If the Owner or occupant is dissatisfied with any decision made by the TOWN in connection with a water leak, the Owner or occupant may request a hearing before the BOARD. However, such a request shall not stay a disconnect order previously issued by the BOARD, nor shall it delay a previously scheduled hearing.
- I. Emergency repairs to private service lines between the curb stop and structures.
 - a. In cases of emergency repair to the property owner's service line on the owner's side of the curb stop the owner will be given 24 hours to contract with a repair facility to repair the line or if the property owner prefers allow the town repair the line at the current service line repair rate.
 - b. Notification will be hand delivered to an adult on the premises or leave a copy of the notice at the building if hand delivery cannot be accomplished. The Notification will indicate date and time of shut off and the current service line repair rate.

ARTICLE 7

Water Fund Management

The following provides for and restricts the use of set-aside (sinking/capital reserve) funds to finance future major maintenances/replacement costs and PLANT/distribution system expansion/upgrade costs. Sinking funds and capital reserve funds shall be established and maintained in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 3313, §1777

SECTION 7.01 – SINKING FUND

The Sinking Fund, Per 24 V.S.A. §1777 shall be used for the retirement of a bond issue or other debt, the fund so established or provided shall be kept intact and separate from other monies. The sinking fund shall not be appropriated or used for the current expenses of the Public Water Supply System or Facilities.

SECTION 7.02 – CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

The Capital reserve fund may be used for emergency repairs, major maintenance, expansions, upgrading expenses associated with the Public Water Supply System or Facilities. The fund shall be based upon on the following in writing: major maintenance/replacement identification, estimated expenditures, estimated year of expenditure, payment amount, source of funding and when payments are to stop.

SECTION 7.03 – SINKING FUND AND CAPITAL RESERVE FUND MANAGEMENT

The TOWN reserves the right to increase, decrease, stop and/or maintain regular deposits to the sinking fund and/or capital reserve fund. Deposits into these funds shall not exceed 15% of the total budgeted expenses for maintenance/replacement in that year. The water fees charged for expansion costs shall be deposited into the capital reserve fund.

SECTION 7.04 – SINKING FUND AND CAPITAL RESERVE FUND ASSETS

- A. When the sinking fund and/or capital reserve fund assets are not fully disbursed excess money shall remain in the fund for future expenditures.
- B. Dedicated funds may be generated from fees paid by users to deposit funds into the sinking or capital reserve fund.
- C. Funds shall not exceed the estimated future expansion cost for the Water Treatment Plant.

ARTICLE 8

Water Charges

SECTION 8.01 – WATER BASE AND USE RATE

The Water Base Rate and the Water Use Rate shall be charged to customers on the TOWN's water system related to the payment associated with the costs of operating, maintaining, and repairing said system including loan repayment expenses, as appropriate. These fees shall be based upon rate structure(s) decided by the BOARD. Fees may be updated on an annual basis or as the BOARD deems necessary. Fees shall be posted on the duly adopted "Schedule of Rates and Fees" which is available at the TOWN offices.

SECTION 8.02 – CHARGING CONNECTED VACANT PROPERTIES

Vacant properties that are connected to the public water system may be charged the Water Base Rate established in SECTION 8.01 whether or not the property is occupied. Note: a physical disconnection of a structure or water service from the TOWN water system, such as a water main, does not imply a vacant (including seasonally vacant) property is not connected to the TOWN water system. Refer to "disconnected" and "disconnection" in Article 2.

SECTION 8.03 – CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITY

Water bills are rendered in the name of the customer. A customer who has tenants metered separately shall receive one (1) bill for each tenant so metered. If more than one tenant is on the same meter, the customer shall receive one bill which will include all tenants on that meter.

- A. The customer is responsible for the payment of water bills, regardless of whether the customer is the ultimate user and regardless of customer-tenant utility paying arrangements (e.g., a lease agreement). By applying for water service, the customer agrees to pay all bills as they become due, and failing to do so, agrees to pay all costs of collection, including interest charges, shut-off/reconnect fees, attorney's fees, and other costs permitted the TOWN pursuant to this Ordinance and Vermont law.
- B. The customer is responsible for notifying the TOWN, at the TOWN office, of any changes in mailing address.
- C. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve the customer of the obligation for payment or for payment of penalties for late payment.

SECTION 8.04 – COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT WATER CHARGES

Bills are due upon receipt. In the event any water charge is not paid within thirty (30) days from the bill's receipt or the bill's postmark, whichever is greater in time, an interest charge shall be added to the water charge. The amount of the interest charge on the overdue accounts shall be the same as those applied to delinquent taxes as set forth in 32 V.S.A., Chapter 17, Section 1674, and Chapter 133, Section 5136. The TOWN has the authority to place a lien on the real

ARTICLE 9

Disconnection of Service

SECTION 9.01 – DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS / DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE

Under the Uniform Water and Sewer Disconnect, 24 V.S.A., Chapter 129, water accounts which are not paid within thirty (30) days of the bill's receipt or postmark date, whichever is greater in time, become delinquent and may be disconnected. Disconnections are subject to certain restrictions as specified in the Vermont Statutes.

SECTION 9.02 – NOTICE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE DISCONNECTION

Before disconnection can occur, the Customer must be given notice of delinquency and advised of the possibility of having its service interrupted. The notice must meet the following requirements as stipulated in 24 V.S.A., Chapter 129:

- A. It must be sent within forty (40) days after delinquency.
- B. It must be sent not more than twenty (20) days, nor less than fourteen (14) days prior to the planned disconnection of service.
- C. It must be on pink paper.
- D. It must be on the Uniform Notice Form provided for by law, informing the Customer of their delinquency, collection and reconnection fees, methods of arranging payment of the bill and appeal rights.
- E. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the occupant of the residential dwelling that will be affected by the disconnection if the occupant is different than the Customer.
- F. The notice may provide for the disconnection of service for an aggregate delinquency, comprised of more than one (1) delinquent charge, so long as the notice is sent within forty (40) days after one (1) such charge becomes delinquent.

SECTION 9.03 – TIME AND MANNER OF DISCONNECTION

- A. The TOWN shall disconnect water service only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. of the business day specified on the Uniform Notice Form or within the same hours during the four (4) business days thereafter. See Article 2 for the definition of "business days".
- B. When service is disconnected at the premises of the Customer, which shall include disconnection at or near the premises of the Customer, the individual making the disconnection shall give written notice "Notice: Your Water Service Has Been Disconnected" to a responsible adult on the premises that service has been disconnected. If no responsible adult is present, the individual shall leave the notice on the premises in

months, nor will the TOWN enter into any agreement which does not also require the Customer to pay all future charges as they become due.

- C. In the event that an agreement is reached after collection trips have been made, or service has been reconnected, the charges for such action may be added to the delinquent bill or charge to which the agreement relates.
- D. Interest shall accrue on the entire delinquent amount to which the agreement relates.
- E. It shall be the responsibility of the Customer to obtain and execute a written agreement on the form specified by the BOARD.
- F. Failure to satisfy the terms of such agreements shall be deemed to constitute a failure by the Customer to abide by the terms of the said agreement, and will subject the Customer to disconnection without further notice, in addition to any other collection action which the TOWN may take.

SECTION 9.06 – RESTORATION OF WATER SERVICE

If water service has been disconnected for delinquency of payment of a valid bill or other charge, the TOWN shall, within twenty-four (24) hours, restore service upon the Customer's request when the cause for disconnection has been removed, or when an agreement has been reached between the Customer and the BOARD regarding the dispute which led to the disconnection.

Restoration of service, to the extent feasible, shall be done so as to avoid charging a Customer overtime wages and other abnormal expenses.

In cases where disconnection or interruption of service is made for reasons of health or safety of the Customer or of the general public, no collection or reconnection fees shall be charged.

SECTION 9.07 – TAX SALES AND LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY

Upon delinquency of payment of a valid bill for service provided to the Owner of the real estate or other charge for water service properly charged to the Owner of the real estate, the BOARD may file notice of a lien or notice of a tax sale upon the real estate with respect to which the water service was rendered, provided in 24 V.S.A., Chapter 89, Section 3306. Such notices shall be in the standard form furnished by the TOWN and recorded with the Clerk of the TOWN. A copy of the notice shall be mailed to the Owner and all lien holders or mortgagees of the property. Before filing the lien or deferring the property for tax sale, the BOARD shall give the Owner of said property an opportunity to be heard.

If the Owner fails to enter into any agreement for payment of a delinquent bill, or if the Owner fails to abide by the terms of said agreement, the BOARD has the authority to place the real estate up for tax sale, in accordance with 32 V.S.A., Chapter 133, Section 5252, regardless of the total dollar amount of the delinquency and the period of time for which the Owner has been delinquent, as the BOARD deems necessary.

ARTICLE 12

Prohibitions and Penalties for Violation of Rules

SECTION 12.01 – PROHIBITIONS

- A. No person shall deny access to any inspector of the TOWN or any person authorized by the TOWN to conduct an inspection or perform such other duties as set forth in this ORDINANCE.
- B. No person shall violate any emergency rule adopted by the BOARD as provided in Article 1 of this ORDINANCE.
- C. No person shall damage, remove, or tamper with any meter through which water service is being provided. No person shall break the seal of any such meter.
- D. No person shall damage, remove, or tamper with any meter remote or wire connecting the meter and remote at a service location. No person shall break the seal of any such remote.
- E. No person shall knowingly cause water to be taken at any service location or elsewhere, in any manner inconsistent with the application for service governing such location, any contract for the supply of water application to such location, any terms and conditions based upon service at such location by the BOARD or this ORDINANCE.
- F. No person shall take or use water from the TOWN's water system at any location or in any manner that is not authorized by the BOARD. No person may make, and no Customer shall suffer or permit any person to make, any connection to that system, unless such connection is authorized by the BOARD.
- G. No person shall obstruct the access to any fire hydrant, curb stop, meter, remote reader, or any other appurtenance of the water system.
- H. No person shall make any connection to any hydrant on the TOWN's water system, and no person may cause any such hydrant to be opened, except as authorized by this ORDINANCE, or otherwise by the BOARD.
- I. No person shall make any material misstatements of fact in any application for water service.
- J. No person shall complete construction of any service connection with the TOWN's water system in any manner other than that set forth in any plans and specifications submitted to and approved by the BOARD. No person shall fail to disclose any deviations or variations from such plans to the BOARD at the first date such variations or deviations become known to such person.

ARTICLE 13

Amendments, Changes and Petitions

SECTION 13.01 – AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES

The BOARD may make such amendments, changes, etc., to the ORDINANCE that in its judgment are necessary for the efficient operation and/or in the best interests of the Water System.

All Rules, Regulations, Ordinances, Policies, Procedures, or other regulatory provisions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

The invalidity of any section, clause, sentence, or provision of this ORDINANCE shall not affect the validity of any other part of this ORDINANCE which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

SECTION 13.02 – PETITIONS

Citizens have the right to petition for a vote on this ORDINANCE and amendments at an annual or special meeting as provided in 24 V.S.A., Chapter 59. If a petition is received in accordance with 24 V.S.A., Chapter 59 a special meeting shall be called within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the petition to determine whether the voters will approve/disapprove the ORDINANCE and/or amendment hereto.