

CHAPTER D

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

D10. Sewer Assessment Bylaw

D 10 Sewer System

1. Allocation of Cost of Sewer System. *The entire cost of laying out, constructing and operating a system for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage for all or any part of the Town shall be borne by the land benefited by such system, in accordance with the following provisions, except that costs incurred in connection with the planning and construction of the sewer collection and treatment facility for Middle Fort Pond Brook Sewer District, for archeological studies, paving of roads, engineering peer reviews, police details, traffic studies, and land acquisition, amounting in total to \$1,336,600, shall be allocated to taxpayers at large; and except for such costs as the Town Meeting, by a two-thirds vote, at a town meeting subsequent to this November 15, 1999 Special Town Meeting, shall allocate to taxpayers at large.*

2. Assessment by Uniform Unit Method.

a. *The Town, acting through its Sewer Commissioners, shall assess the owners of all land abutting any way in which there is a public sewer line constructed by the Town, by the uniform unit method, as authorized by G.L. c. 83 §15.*

b. *The Sewer Commissioners shall establish sewer assessment units, as follows:*

(i) *The owner of land used for a single family residence shall be assessed on the basis of one sewer unit. The owner of undeveloped land zoned for single family residential use shall be assessed on the basis of the maximum number of single family residences which may be constructed on such land as of right under the zoning requirements then in effect, without approval of the further subdivision of such land under the Subdivision Control Law.*

(ii) *The owner of land used for multi-family residential use, shall be assessed on the basis of .67 times the number of dwelling units presently existing on such land, provided each unit has fewer than three bedrooms as defined by Title V. Vacant land zoned for multi-*

family use shall be assessed on the basis of .67 times the maximum number of units which can be constructed as of right under the zoning then in effect, without approval of further subdivision of such land under the Subdivision Control Law. Multi-family units with three or more bedrooms shall be assessed on the basis of one sewer unit per dwelling unit. Each owner of a condominium or cooperative dwelling unit in a multi-family residential building shall be assessed only for his or her dwelling unit.

- (iii) *The owner of land used or zoned for business use, including land in the Village, Office, Business districts, except land in such districts actually used for residential or other purposes, shall be assessed on the basis of a number of sewer units calculated by multiplying the maximum floor area ratio (FAR) permitted as of right under the zoning requirements then in effect times the lot area and dividing the result by 4000, in accordance with the following formula.*

$$\text{Number of Sewer Units} = \frac{\text{Maximum FAR} \times \text{Lot Area}}{4000}$$

- (iv) *The owner of land used or zoned for industrial use shall be assessed on the basis of a number of sewer units to be determined by the Sewer Commissioners, taking into account the expected daily sewage flow from such land based on Title V design flows.*
- (v) *The owner of land used or zoned for other purposes not specified in the foregoing sections, including , but not limited to, institutional and non-profit uses, shall be assessed on the basis of a number of sewer units to be determined by the Sewer Commissioners, taking into account the expected daily sewage flow from such land based on Title V design flows.*

3. **User Fees for Land Not Subject to Assessment.** *The Sewer Commissioners shall establish just and reasonable fees for the use of the public sewer system by the owner of any land, including public land, not liable to assessment, which fee shall be based on the avoided cost of construction of sewage disposal facilities to serve such land.*

4. **Assessment Rates.** *The Sewer Commissioners shall establish the assessment rate for land within the Middle Fort Pond Brook sewer area, based on total construction costs for the sewerage system serving such area, including all costs of land acquisition, engineering and design, financing and construction,*

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divided by the total number of existing and potential sewer units within such area. In establishing such rate, the Sewer Commissioners shall apportion the total construction costs between costs required to serve the Middle Fort Pond Brook area and costs required to serve future areas within the Town and shall assess owners within the Middle Fort Pond Brook area only such costs as are reasonably necessary to serve such area, after deducting any construction costs to be recovered pursuant to Section 3 from users of the system not subject to assessment.

5. Sewer Privilege Fees. *The Sewer Commissioners may establish reasonable fees pursuant to G.L. c. 83, § 17 to cover costs of construction of common sewers and other facilities required to serve land not previously served by the sewer system and not previously assessed to the owner of such land. Any such fee shall be reduced to the extent the landowner pays such expenses, in accordance with G.L. c. 83, § 22.*

6. Annual User Fees. *The Sewer Commissioners may from time to time establish just and equitable annual user charges to cover the cost of maintenance, repairs and operation of the sewer system.*

7. Rules and Regulations Concerning Sewer Assessments. *The Sewer Commissioners may adopt such reasonable rules and regulations with respect to the calculation of sewer assessments or fees as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the provisions of this bylaw.*

8. Applicability of General Laws. *Except as provided herein or in any special legislation applicable to the Town, the provisions of the General Laws relative to the assessment, apportionment, division, re-assessment, abatement and collection of sewer assessments and to liens therefore and interest thereon shall apply to assessments made hereunder.*

9. Rules and Regulations Concerning Use of Sewer System. *The Sewer Commissioners may establish rules and regulations concerning the use of the public sewer system, including but not limited to, rules and regulations prohibiting the deposit of any harmful or deleterious substance into the system, for regulating connections to the system and establishing civil penalties for violation of such rules.*