

Expansion of District Boundaries

EXPLANATION

Purpose of the Petition

To obtain the signatures of the majority of property owners whose property is located within the boundaries of the proposed expansion of the Sandwich Water District (as established in the petition) stating their interest in this expansion. The Water District is not part of the Town of Sandwich government. When an area is petitioned into the District, it is based on a majority of property owners within the proposed expansion. It is recommended petitioners obtain the signatures of approximately 75% of the property owners to allow for real estate sales. Current owners may be verified through records on file with the Town of Sandwich, Assessors office.

Procedure in Extending the Water District

Obtain signatures on the petition and return to the District. When the District receives the petition, signatures will be certified as being those of the current property owners. The District will next obtain engineering data with regards to necessary wells, storage tanks, water main sizes, and all other related expenses involved in the expansion. An informational public hearing may be held for interested parties. The petition would then be scheduled as an Article to be placed on the Warrant of the next Annual District Meeting or a Special District Meeting should the Board of Commissioners so decide. A District Meeting for the Water District is the same as a Town Meeting is to a Town. Only residents within the current existing District boundaries and who are registered voters in the Town of Sandwich shall have the right to vote on the Petitioned Article. The Petitioned Article may pass by a simple majority vote. The results will then be certified. After the petitioned area becomes part of the District, residents (if they are registered voters in the Town of Sandwich and reside within the Water District) may then vote in District affairs.

Costs

The Water District has a tax. It is based on the assessed valuation as established by the Board of Assessors of the Town of Sandwich (the same value the Town taxes on). The District's tax rate for FY-2015 is \$.78 per thousand – in example A home valued at \$100,000.00 would be \$.78 per \$1,000.00, which would be \$78.00. This \$78.00 would be included on your tax bill (broken down quarterly) providing a fire hydrant was established within one thousand feet (1,000') of the subject property.

Costs, Installation of Water Mains, etc.

You will now have to petition again to have water mains extended into your area. Unless you want water and express that fact by petition, the District will not extend the water mains, except if District plans for the area to be serviced, calls for additional water storage tanks, or pumping facilities, or if the project is beneficial to the rest of the District. This second petition must also be voted on at an Annual or Special District Meeting for approval of the water main extension and expenditure of funds.

When you petition for the installation of water mains that go by your property, all owners of property where the water mains go by, would bear all costs. Under the Betterment Laws of Massachusetts you may apportion betterment charges after notice by the Board of Assessors. You may choose to pay the betterment off completely, thus saving on the interest charges or you may apportion the costs over a period of time – from one to twenty years with interest charges on the unpaid balance.

Betterments may be paid through your mortgage bank right along with your monthly tax payments.

Water Service

Individual water services are separate from the betterment costs. When the installation is complete, you may apply for water service to your home by:

- o Completing an application with the District for water service and pay a one-time charge, presently the cost is \$1,500.00.
- o The Water District will connect you to the water main in the street and install the water meter and cellar valve.

The remainder of the water service (from the property line to the metering point in the basement) is the homeowners’ responsibility. The District does not recommend the contractor for this, but has a list of those who have done this sort of work in the past.

NOTE: The property owner does not have to hook up to town water unless they wish to do so.

Cost of Water

Water Bills are issued twice a year. Water meters are read in June and December. The usage is calculated, and customers are billed.

The current rate is as follows:

Usage	20,000 gallons	\$25.00
	21,000 to 50,000 gallons	\$2.00 (per 1,000 gallons)
	51,000 gallons and over	\$3.00 (per 1,000 gallons)
 Example	46,000 gallons	
	20,000 = \$25.00	\$25.00
	26,000 x \$2.00	<u>\$52.00</u>
		\$77.00

Miscellaneous

The Board of Water Commissioners is an elected Board.

The current Board is as follows: Richard W. Anderson, Chairman
 Peter S. Thomas
 Peter D. Howell

For further information, you are cordially invited to attend a Board of Water Commissioners meeting. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the District office located at 72 Tupper Road in Sandwich or you may call the District Superintendent, Daniel H. Mahoney, at the District office at 888-2775, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.