

Select Board Chapter 5 Sanitary Sewer System Regulations

SB5,1 Authority

Pursuant to RSA 149-1:7, sanitary sewer service fees shall be incurred by every property which is served by the Town's sanitary sewer system.

SB5,2 Definitions

- _1 Board is the Town of Stratford Select Board.
- _2 Department is the Stratford Sewer Department.
- _3 Lateral Line, or Lateral, is the pipe connecting sanitary facilities to the System.
- _4 Lot is a parcel of land defined by metes and bounds and registered by the Coös County Registry of Deeds.
- _5 Lot Owner is any individual or group holding title to a lot and consequently holding responsibility for any related System account.
- _6 Main is the primary collection pipeline to which Laterals are connected.
- _7 Septage is any material from wastewater storage units.
- _8 System is the Stratford sanitary sewer system.
- _9 Town is the Town of Stratford.
- _10 User is any individual or group having direct or indirect responsibility for a System account.

SB5,3 Scope

- _1 These regulations apply to all properties connected to the System.
- _2 The Board is authorized to enforce, modify, suspend, or repeal the provisions of any regulation herein. The sections of these regulations and the parts thereof are severable.

SB5,4 System Connection Requirements

- _1 The owners of a Lot or property that can reasonably be expected to provide sanitary facilities for residents or guests shall install suitable sanitary facilities, and connect such facilities to the Town's sanitary sewer system within 90 days after date of official notice to do so, provided that a Main is within 150 feet of the structure housing the sanitary facilities. Non-compliance may be subject to a fine of \$20.00 per day until compliance is demonstrated and such penalties may become a lien against said lot, and interest charged thereon.
- _2 Applications for a connection to the System shall be made in writing to the Board office.
 - .1 A connection application fee of \$250.00 must be submitted with the application.

.2 Applications shall constitute permission from the Lot Owners authorizing Town personnel to enter the premises to perform necessary inspection, installation, and maintenance work.

_3 Installation of a Lateral shall be by a Department approved installer under the supervision of the Department, but employed by, and under the responsibility of, the Lot Owners. No person, unless authorized by the Department, shall be permitted to make any connection to the System.

.1 All costs, expenses, and risks incidental to the installation and connection of a Lateral shall be borne by the Lot Owners to be served. Thereafter the Lot Owners shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Lateral upstream from the connection to the System.

.2 Lot Owners and Users shall indemnify the Town from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation or maintenance of a Lateral Line. No Lot Owner or User shall be entitled to damages, nor have any portion of a payment refunded for any stoppage to any portion of the System, nor for any stoppage for purposes of repairs or additions.

.3 A lot shall be served via a single Lateral.

.4 Connections shall conform to the National Plumbing Code except new piping shall consist of code approved plastics. No Lateral shall use any lead components.

.5 No Lateral shall be laid in the same trench with other pipes or lines not related to the Lateral.

.6 Construction standards for Laterals and related equipment are available from the Department.

SB5,5 Maintenance Responsibility

_1 The Lot Owner shall notify the Department of any maintenance of a Lateral connected to the System. The Department shall observe all work during installation or maintenance of any Lateral.

_2 The Town assumes no responsibility for any damages or expenses associated with any Lateral.

_3 No Lot Owner shall cause any work to be performed on the System or connection thereto without notification to, and approval by, the Department.

SB5,6 Limits on Use

No User of the Town sanitary sewer system shall direct any storm, flood, sump, or any other such non-sanitary sewage into the sanitary sewer system. No User shall direct any other fluid or solid into the System that would be deleterious to the System or to the environment such as, but not limited to, chemicals, pesticides, toxins, heavy metals, petroleum products, or medications. Violations shall be subject to a fine of \$500 for the first instance, \$1000 for each instance thereafter.

SB5,7 Sewer System Fees

shall consist of a service fee plus a load fee based on the metered water consumption.

_1 The service fee shall be assessed based on the active Stratford water system account discharging into the System. This fee shall be \$80.00 per year. Partial years shall be prorated.

_2 The load fee shall be based on the metered water use and shall be calculated and billed according to a load formula that shall be applied to each connected water meter account equally.

.1 $\text{Load_fee} = \text{metered_gal}^{\$x} - \text{metered_gal}$, (where $\$x$ shall be greater than 1).

.2 Thus the total fee = standard_service_fee + load_fee.

_3 If a Lot Owner has allowed or caused inaccurate or no water meter readings, a fee of \$500 shall be assessed for unmetered System load. The Town shall inform the Lot Owner by letter of water meter problems when they become known to the Department. The Town assumes no responsibility for Lot Owner or third party caused meter inaccuracies or meter reading problems.

_4 The Board shall, from time to time, adjust the sewer System fees to meet the cost of operating and maintaining the System.

.1 The Board shall not set these fees such that together they regularly exceed the reasonable actual system operating and maintenance costs nor shall any System revenue be diverted from paying System costs.

.2 The Board shall provide warning of any increase or decrease in any System fee, and shall notify each User of the current rate in conjunction with the regular bill.

SB5,8 Billing and Liens

_1 Assessments and fees shall be committed under Board warrant to the Tax Collector requiring said collector to collect them under the same rights and remedies and subject to the same liabilities in relation thereto as in the collection of taxes. (RSA 149-I:7)

_2 As provided in RSA 38:22, all System fees shall, until fully discharged, create a lien upon the lot to which the services were furnished and incur the same collection procedures as authorized by RSA 38:22. Interest on overdue charges shall be assessed in accordance with RSA 76:13. (RSA 149-I:11)

SB5,9 Appeal

_1 The Board shall have the authority to abate, reduce, or forgive any System fee legally due the Town. The Board may only consider such requests for a period of 12 months following a bill due date.

_2 Submission of an appeal does not exempt a Lot Owner or User from paying assessed fees when due. Should a Lot Owner or User fail to pay such fees, the fee will be considered delinquent and the Town shall utilize the same liens and use the same collection procedures as authorized by RSA 38:22. Interest on overdue charges shall be assessed in accordance with RSA 76:13. (RSA 149-I:11)

_3 If the Board finds accrued User fees to be inequitable, it shall adjust fees accordingly; overpayment shall be treated as prepayment, underpayments shall fall due 5 working days after the final decision of the Board regarding the appeal.

SB5,10 System extension

Any extension of the System shall be made only with the Board's authorization and supervision.

SB5,11 Town Septage Ponds and Sanitary Pumper Truck

_1 A Septage pond tipping fee of \$125.00 per tip will be charged, regardless of volume.

_2 Non-Resident Septage will not be accepted. If non-resident Septage is found to have been tipped, a fee of \$400.00 will be charged to the owner of the vehicle from which the Septage was tipped.

_3 Proceeds from and expenses related to the pumper truck shall be kept separate from and not credited or charged to System Users. Expenses of testing and running the lagoons shall be kept separate from and not charged to System Users.

_4 Any damages or spills related to a pumper truck or the lagoons shall be charged to the holder of the waste disposal permit for the expense incurred.

SB5,12 Financial Management System

The Town shall keep a separate financial account for the System.

SB5,13 Waivers

_1 Upon petition, the Board may grant a waiver of any requirement of this ordinance.

_2 The Board shall grant waivers only in consideration of the Town's best interest, the welfare of residents and visitors, and property owner hardship. Waivers shall not be arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful.

SB5,14 Amendment

The Board may amend any section of this ordinance for any reason deemed necessary by the Board, subject to NH Env-Wq 700.

SB5, 15 Effective Date: This ordinance and subsequent amendments shall become effective upon signature by the Board.

Adopted:

1986, April 28

Revised:

1986, June 9

1986, September 16

2003, May 15

2005, February 28

2025, September 22