

- ❖ Mass EOE and Water Resources Commission Standards (2006/2012 update/under review)
 - Metering Standards
 - 100% metering including municipal accounts
 - At least quarterly billing (Tighe & Bond 2012: 34% still biannual)
 - Metering Recommendations
 - Fund meter replacements
 - Read/bill large users monthly
 - Share costs between water & sewer
 - Report use in gallons
 - Use remote meter reading
 - Pricing Standards
 - Full Cost Pricing
 - Prohibit decreasing block rates
 - Pricing Recommendations
 - Encourage efficient use/discourage non-essential use
 - Increasing block rates
 - Seasonal rates
 - Establish Enterprise Accounts
 - Assess Environmental Costs
 - All under review now (NOT finalized!) Updated guidance MAY:
 - Include more emphasis on seasonal rates, less emphasis on increasing block
 - Change the pricing standard to a more general use of price to reduce inefficient or non-essential use
 - Recognize that we are a fixed cost entity with variable revenues. Revenue stability an issue
 - Include more on messaging: value of water, value of conservation and long-term planning
 - Urge more frequent billing
- ❖ Rate Structures
 - Per Tighe & Bond Survey: 65% Increasing block, 34% uniform charge. Some seasonal (Acton, Chatham, Sharon)
 - Chapter 165, Section 2B: All municipalities or water districts within the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, but not including communities serviced by the Connecticut Valley Aqueduct shall institute water

charges and fees that incorporate a base rate for all users; provided, that said base rate shall be increased at an increasing block rate to fairly reflect the resource demand and consumption of high volume users of water.

- Chapter 40, Section 39L: No local body shall charge for water or sewer services on a descending unit rate basis. For the purposes of this section a local body shall be a city, town, district, commission or other political subdivision or instrumentality of the commonwealth which is not within Hampden county and which is responsible for providing by itself or through an officer, board, department or division thereof local water supply or local sewer services; except as otherwise expressly provided herein, in any case where local water supply or local sewer services within the territorial boundaries of a local body are provided in whole or in part by a political subdivision or public instrumentality of the commonwealth separate from such local body, the term “local body” as used in this section shall mean, within the service area thereof, the political subdivision or public instrumentality.

❖ Irrigation or Second Meters

- Allow or don't allow?

❖ Fixed vs. Variable Charges

- Calif standard no more than 30% fixed
- Fire Protection

❖ Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds

- Do you have one?
 - How many
- To get financial assistance or subsidies under the new Infrastructure Act required to:
 - Adopt an Enterprise Fund (or similar restricted account)
 - Not transfer from Enterprise to General Fund (except to reimburse expenses)
- What costs do you recover?
 - Benefits (vacation, sick, pensions, OPEB)
 - Indirect costs (DPW Director, support departments – vehicle maint.)
 - Town Hall Administration (treasurer, collector, accounting, Manager)
 - Conservation/mitigation

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