

## **MUNICIPAL WATER BETTERMENT ASSESSMENT POLICY**

### **Authority**

Pursuant to RSA 38:27 and the 2022 Town Meeting Vote approving Warrant Article P-22-02, the Plaistow Board of Selectmen hereby adopts this Municipal Water Betterment Assessment Policy.

### **Purpose**

The Town of Plaistow recognizes the economic, environmental and public health importance of public water to the community. In furtherance of that purpose, it has recently converted a fire suppression water main located in Route 125 to a potable water main, using funds from the settlement of the MtBE lawsuits. As a result, that line is now available for residents who live along the line and who wish to connect to the municipal water system. The Town of Plaistow wishes to encourage such connections by making available for those residents financing for such assessments as described in this policy. This program may be extended to other areas in town where the existence of municipal water is in the interest of public health and safety.

### **Payment Options and Financing**

Pursuant to Section 6 of the Plaistow Water Ordinance, the costs of installation and maintenance of the service pipes from the curb stop to the building to which water service is provided are the responsibility of the property owner. The town has established Rates for Service, including connection fees and system development charges.

Warrant Article P-22-02 established an interim fund to provide an assistance program to abutting properties to help incentivize connections to the potable water system by providing zero or low interest loans to the property owners to cover the capital costs needed for fees, installation, and other associated costs so that they may connect to the potable water system. These fees include and are limited to connection fees and system development fees.

Payment arrangements must be made at the time of connection to the new water mains. Payment options include:

- I. Payment in full.
- II. 1 year (4 quarterly payments) at 0% interest
- III. 2-5 years (8-20 quarterly payments at the rate of the most recently issued bond or other interest rate charged to the Town for funds borrowed.

Option III shall be available from the date of the adoption of this policy until December 31, 2025.

**Notice of Assessment**

Any property with an assessment not paid in full shall have a "Notice of Assessment" recorded on the property at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds.

**Late Payments and Interest Charges**

In addition to the loan interest, an additional charge of 1.5% per month will be charged on all billed installment balances more than 30 days past due. All overdue loan installments, plus any accrued and unpaid interest, are due on demand. Any unpaid installment balances as of March 1 of each year shall be remanded to the Tax Collector and shall become a lien against the property assessed and collected in accordance with RSA 80:1 et. seq.

**Nontransferable**

The obligation to pay Special Assessments is non-delegable and any such Special Assessments must be paid in full prior to the sale or transfer of title to the assessed property by the original obligee or any foreclosing mortgagee.