

SEWER SYSTEM ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES
OF THE
ANDOVER BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS
February, 1980
(AS REVISED October 29, 2007)

POLICY ESTABLISHED:

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable to provide for the orderly development and operation of the Andover sewer system, and

WHEREAS, in order to administer the Andover sewer system on a uniform basis according to the comprehensive sewer plan and capital improvement program and to provide the users of the sewer system their rights to flow capacity and trouble free operation of the system and significant unplanned expenditures for construction improvements, and

WHEREAS, the Andover Board of Sewer Commissioners has considered various factors involving the public health, cost/effectiveness and environmental impacts,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT MOVED AND VOTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN acting in the capacity as sewer commissioners for the Town of Andover that the following policies regarding the administration of the Andover Sewer System be adopted.

MASTER SEWER SYSTEM PLAN:

The comprehensive master sewer system plan shall be the "Report on Comprehensive Plan for Sanitary Sewer" prepared by Camp, Dresser and McKee, Dated December 20, 1957 and as revised from time to time and as adopted by vote of the 1978 Annual Town Meeting, Article 39 including the "Report on West Andover Industrial Area Sewerage System", Dated December, 1967.

CRITERIA FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE MASTER SEWER PLAN:

1. The Andover sewer system shall be a gravity flow sewer system including the publicly owned and operated sewage pumping stations in existence as of March 1, 2007; more specifically the Tantallon Road Sewage Pumping Station (aka Shawsheen Village Sewage Pumping Station), Water Treatment Plant, Bridle

Path Road, , Dale Street, Osgood Street, Morningside Drive, Snowberry Road, Woburn Street, Salem Street, Robandy Road, Kathleen Drive, Launching Road, Sugarbush Lane, and Tilton Lane Sewage Pumping Stations. All other sewage pumping facilities including force mains are privately owned and not considered a part of the Andover Sewer System and shall not be accepted as a part of the sewer system by the Town of Andover.

The policy of a gravity flow system is adopted by reason of maintaining system reliability. A gravity flow system will continue to operate despite electric power outages, mechanical failures or other deficiencies with a higher degree of reliability than a system which includes sewage pumping stations or force mains. The failure of a sewer system to function reliably will have an adverse impact upon public health. .

The policy of a gravity flow system is also adopted by reason of economy and efficiency in the operation of the system. The development of additional sewage pumping stations and force mains requires substantial increases in expenditure for construction and ongoing maintenance. Sewage pumping stations are significant consumers of electric power, a scarce energy resource and should only be utilized as a last resort. It is the obligation of the sewer commissioners to provide an economical sewer system to the users of the system both now and in the future.

Pursuant to the "Sewer System Administrative Policies of the Board of Sewer Commissioner" (adopted March 19, 1980 and as revised from time to time), private sewage pumping stations and/or force mains shall not be permitted for inclusion into the Andover sewer system. With the exception of those publicly owned and operated sewage pumping stations listed in the above-referenced Policies, all sewage pumping stations and force mains shall be privately-owned and maintained. While no private sewage pumping stations or force mains shall be permitted outside the sewer service area described in the "Report on Comprehensive Plan for Sanitary Sewers" dated December 20, 1957 that are designed to access the Andover sewer system, private pumping stations and force mains may be permitted within the sewer service area described in the above-referenced Report provided they are located entirely on private property. Those applicants whose land uses are within the sewer service area and, as a function of topography and location relative to the location of the gravity sewer line, must rely upon the use of a pumping station and force main to access the gravity sewer line may apply to the Board of Health for a Special Permit for pumping station and force main to be located entirely on private property. This Permit shall be subject to reasonable conditions relative to use and maintenance of the pumping station and force mains shall not be transferable to a different land use for the parcel without referral to and approval by the Board of Health and Sewer Commission.

No Special Permit shall be issued for system designs which include a force main pumping station or any non-gravity device on public property. Special Permits shall only be considered for pumping systems entirely located on private property which elevate the sanitary wastes (sewage) to an elevation and location from which such sanitary wastes (sewage) will flow entirely by gravity feed at any point beyond the private property line to the municipal public property and public sewer main.

2. The comprehensive planning area as defined in the comprehensive master sewer plan provides for a significant area of the community which at some point in time can be serviced by public sewer. The costs for construction and rehabilitation of these public sewers is estimated to be in excess of \$100,000,000. This is a cost which far exceeds the bonding and other financial capabilities of the Town to absorb in the foreseeable future. Planning for the development of additional sewers beyond the master plan area is not reasonable to consider because the Town cannot reasonably meet the financial requirements to construct these sewers or enlarge the size of the existing core sewer system to accommodate sewage flows which are only remotely possible. Expansion of the master sewer plan area would force a resizing of the existing sewer system at extraordinary public expenditure, an expenditure from which the benefits may never be realized in the future. Because of the excessive costs for sewer construction detailed in the 1979 Report prepared by Camp, Dresser and McKee, Consulting Engineers, the sewer Commissioners shall provide for the extension of public sewers when the Board of Health, in consultation with the Sewer Commissioners, determines that the public health requires the extension of sewers. Prior to selection of a sewer extension construction project all other remedies shall be explored and determined as unfeasible or insufficient. Such alternative remedies shall include but not necessarily be limited to: a) replacement of on site disposal system with a new, auxiliary, or replacement system, b) communal subsurface disposal system, and c) outright property acquisition.
3. The sewer commissioners commit as a matter of policy to recommend for appropriation an average of \$100,000 per year to make improvements to the sewer system according to the following priorities:
 - a. The first priority for improvement expenditures shall be for the rehabilitation of the existing sewer system. In order of priority rehabilitation shall first be directed at:
 - i..... Replacing or making other improvements to known sections of the sewer system which have failed or are likely to fail in the immediate future.

- ii.... Secondly, removing excessive inflow and infiltration into the sewer system.
 - b. The second priority for sewer system expenditures following expenditures for rehabilitation shall be for increasing the carrying capacity of the core or existing sewer system to conform to the requirements of the comprehensive master sewer plan. Priorities for increasing sewer capacity shall be:
 - i Replacement or improvement of sewers which are at or near 90% of their peak design capacity.
 - ii Replacement, reconstruction, or improvement of trunk sewers accordingly to a logical sequence of improvements to the system.
 - c. The third order of priority for construction improvements to the sewer system following rehabilitation and increasing the sewer system capacity shall be for extensions to the sewer system. Priorities for sewer system extensions shall be:
 - i..... To those areas that are likely to experience a significant rate of failure to subsurface disposal systems.
 - ii..... To other undeveloped areas within the Master Plan.
- 4. In the event of a failure in the sewer system forcing the expenditure of funds to repair the system and eliminate hazards to public health such expenditures and projects shall take priority over all sewer projects. The sewer commissioners shall then determine whether or not to increase the rate of average annual expenditure for sewer system improvements or defer the improvement schedule to equal the average annual rate of expenditure of \$100,000, more or less.
- 5. Sewer system improvements shall be funded through the Town's Capital Budget and shall be considered and evaluated along with all other items included within the Town's Capital Improvement Program.
- 6.

Sewer Connections:

When considering the authorization for a sewer connection, the Sewer Commissioners shall consider the following:

i..... the capacity of the existing sewer main adjacent to the property. No sewer connection shall be issued to any potential user when the peak wet weather flows of the downstream sewer mains are at 90% or greater functional capacity except for reasons of public health. When this must be determined, it will be incumbent upon the applicant to employ a professional engineer to conduct the analysis, and to provide for funding of a peer review of the analysis if it is determined to be needed.

ii..... Sewer connections where sufficient capacity exists within the proposed adjacent sewer main shall be issued as a matter of right provided that all requirements of the Andover Sewer Bylaw and pretreatment requirements of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District have been satisfied.

iii..... All sewer connections shall first receive approval for such a connection from the Health Division and the Director of Public Works.

iv..... All construction plans shall be in accordance with the specifications and requirements of the Town of Andover. All work shall be performed in a manner satisfactory to the Director of Public Works and the Plumbing Inspector.

Sewer Extensions:

1. Prior to undertaking any sewer extension, a sewer impact study shall be performed which shall include but not necessarily be limited to an analysis of such factors as:
 - a. the impact which the proposed extension will have upon the existing sewer main and Tantallon Road Sewage Pumping Station under wet flow and dry flow conditions,
 - b. the relationship of the proposed sewer extension to the master sewer plan,
 - c. the quantity of sewage to be discharged into the system,
 - d. the nature of the effluent to be discharged into the system and whether or not it meets the requirements of the Andover Sanitary Sewer Bylaw and the rules and regulations of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District,
 - e. such other factors as the Director of Public Works, Board of Health and Sewer Commissioners may require.

2. In no event shall any sanitary sewer extension be authorized where the existing sewer has a peak wet flow utilization which is eighty per cent (80%) or greater of the design capacity of the existing sewer until such time as necessary improvements to the existing sewer in accordance with the Andover Master Sanitary Sewer Plan have been completed.

(Chairman signature)
Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Sewer Commissioners

(Date)

A True Copy Attest:

(Town Clerk Name)
Town Clerk

(Seal)