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GWD
Grafton Water District
Serving Your Water Needs

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Irrigation Meter Program

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

An irrigation meter is a second water meter dedicated to monitoring the usage of outside irrigation watering. A home will have two water meters, one which monitors the domestic (or inside) water usage and the second which monitors the irrigation water usage. Each meter is independent of the other. By implementing this configuration, the owner will not be subject to sewer usage fees for irrigation water usage.

The program works as follows:

- Your water infrastructure will have two meters, one to measure inside water usage and one to measure irrigation water usage.
- The Grafton Water District will read the inside water meter quarterly as we do today and bill you accordingly. This usage will be subject to sewer usage fees.
- We will bill you for the irrigation meter usage twice a year, in July and October. This will be a separate bill from your regular water bill. The usage calculated from this second meter will not be subject to sewer usage fees.

People who use a lot of water, e.g., 100,000 gallons or more, for irrigation will benefit significantly from this program.

The cost to implement this program will be as follows:

- You will need to hire a plumber to reconfigure the plumbing for two independent meters. Please refer to the diagram on the next page.
- The Grafton Water District will charge $1,000 for connecting the second meter.

The ongoing costs will be as follows:

- The inside water meter will be billed (both water and sewer) as it is today so there will be no cost difference for inside water usage.
- The Grafton Water District will bill for irrigation usage at a rate of $11.89 per 1,000 gallons. There will be no sewer charge.

Example of someone who would benefit from this program:

- A household of two adults and two children who have a sprinkler system for their lawn and landscaping.
- Inside water usage @ 6,000 gallons per person – 24,000 per quarter. Cost is $156 per quarter or $624 per year. Sewer cost using 2022 rates of $9.50 per 1,000 gallons will be $912 for a total of $1,536.
- Irrigation usage – 100,000 gallons per year. Annual cost for water usage is 1,258 and the sewer usage cost is 0. They would save $950 annual sewer fees in 2024. Total annual savings is $322.

Customers who would like to implement an irrigation meter should do the following:

1. Contact a plumber to reconfigure your water infrastructure to support two meters. If you do not have a plumber you can review the list of licensed master plumbers at the following link: https://elicensing21.mass.gov/CitizenAccess/GeneralProperty/PropertyLookUp.aspx?isLicensee=Y .
2. When you are ready for us to install the second meter, provide us with the $1,000 payment for the connection and we will coordinate with your plumber to install the meter. Please see the next page for installation requirements.

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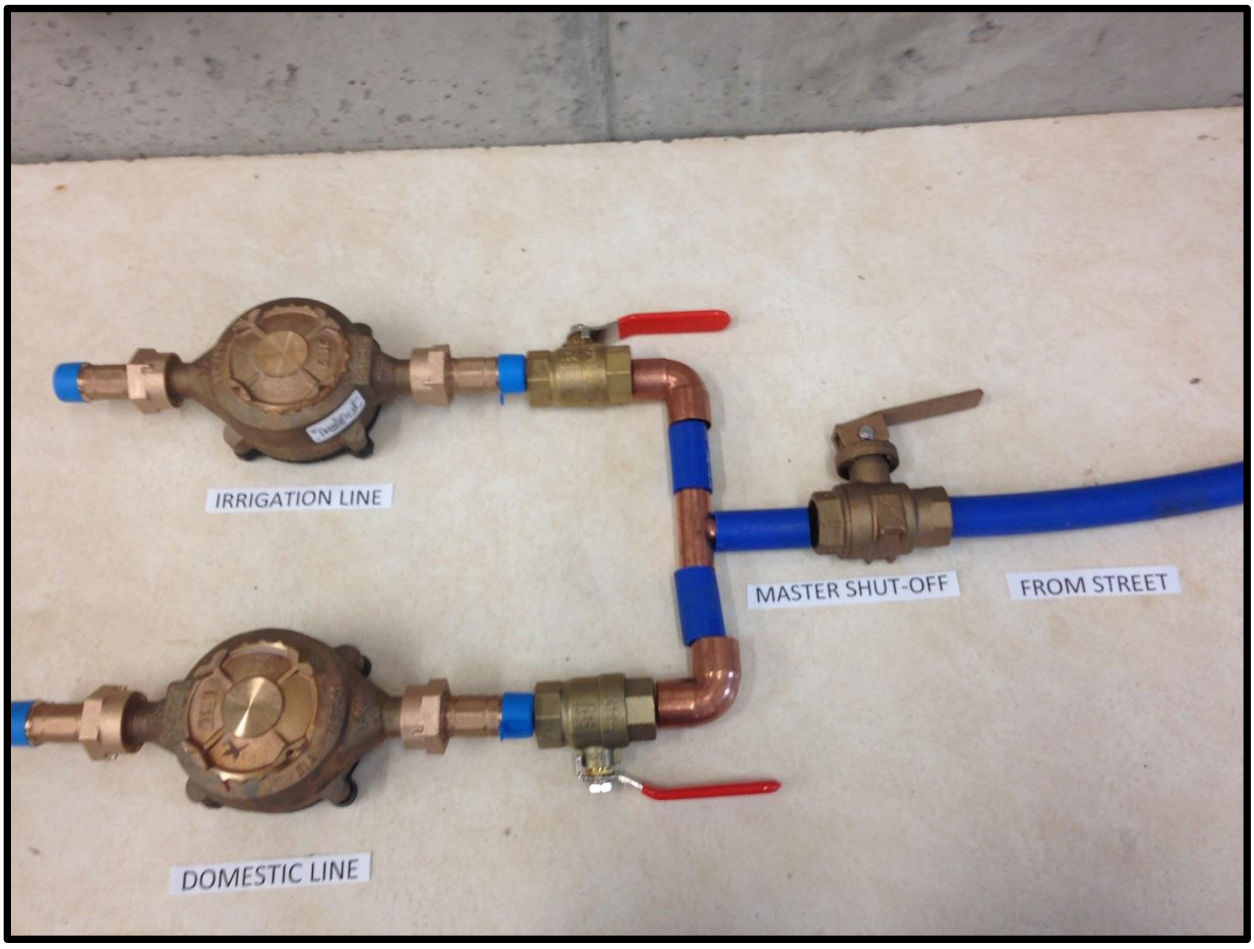
Irrigation Meter Piping Configuration



Notes:

1. Please make sure a plumbing permit from the Town of Grafton has been approved and a copy provided to the Grafton Water District.

2. Also, the irrigation system must use an Department of Environmental (DEP) approved backflow prevention device, either a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB) or a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ.) It must also be installed outside so our backflow device testers can access it easily.