

## CITY OF NORTHVILLE MUNICIPAL DUAL WATER METER POLICY

*At the option of a City of Northville property owner, an additional water meter, referred to as a "Dual Water Meter" may be installed. The dual water meter shall allow for the metering of water that is directed exclusively to a sprinkler system or outside spigot or connection such as to a swimming pool, and will not directly enter a sanitary sewer system, and, therefore, will receive a reduced charge for sewage disposal. All provisions in this policy as adopted by the Northville City Council shall be complied with in order to qualify for a dual water meter system.*

***The City of Northville reserves the right to discontinue the Dual Water Meter program if it proves to be financially harmful to the City.***

### **I. Purpose**

To provide a more equitable method of charging for sanitary sewer service that most closely approximates actual flow into the sanitary sewer.

### **II. Definitions**

A. Permit - Residents wishing to install a second meter for outdoor water use **must first sign an agreement with the City of Northville and pay all applicable fees. This agreement (DUAL WATER METER AGREEMENT) shall become a 5 year permit to utilize a second meter for outdoor water use.**

B. Water Meter - A device installed on a water service used to determine accurate water usage.

C. Dual Water Meter - Property owners who wish to separate water usage into 1.) normal domestic use, and 2.) outside area water maintenance use may do so through the placement of a second (dual) water meter.

D. Outside Remote Device - To aid in the efficiency of reading water meters, every meter must be connected to a device outside a building. This device, referred to an "Outside Remote Device", will allow a meter reader to accurately read the water meter without entering the building.

E. Cross Connection - A dual meter is used for outside area water maintenance use only. Any cross connection of the outside waterline with the inside domestic waterline is prohibited.

### III. Dual Water Meter Requirements

A. Dual Water Meter System - The owner of any premises using metered water may, upon application, pre-inspection, signing of an agreement as provided for herein, and paying such fees as required herein, install a separate water meter for metering the use of water for outside area water maintenance.

1. Fees - The Northville City Council shall from time to time set and establish the fees for the following items:

- Plumbing Permit Fee - *A standard Northville plumbing permit must be obtained to install a dual water meter system.(\$60.)*
- 1 Inch Water Meter with Outside Remote - *The minimum meter size for outside water use shall be 1". (\$260.)*
- Dual Water Meter Inspection Fee - *The cost necessary to pay for the final inspection of the installed dual water meter system, **or the re-inspection of the dual water meter system, should a new property owner wish to continue a dual water system.** (\$50.)*
- Recording Fee - *The bi-monthly fee assessed against the property owner of a dual water meter system to cover the extra cost of reading and processing water billing.*

2. Cost - The cost of the dual water meter and its installation shall be paid by the property owner.

3. Connections - The dual water meter shall be connected on the water line coming into the building from the public water supply. This connection shall conform to the City's meter placement diagram. Only water lines approved by the City Plumbing Inspector shall be connected to the dual water meter. There shall be no connection, or use of water directly from the dual water meter, for other than approved outside area water maintenance.

4. Right of Entry - The Public Works Department and or the Building Department shall, at any reasonable hour, have the right to enter any building wherein there is a dual water meter to inspect the meter and piping system to see that there are no violations regarding the dual water meter. The refusal of entry, upon request, shall be deemed evidence of a violation.

5. Agreement - An owner shall enter into an agreement with the City, before receiving a permit for a dual water meter. This agreement shall state that the owner shall not himself, nor shall he allow anyone else make any illegal use of the dual water meter. **This agreement shall be for a five-year period that can be renewed at no cost to the owner for additional five year increments, providing that the City of Northville continues with a general policy to allow dual meters in the City.**

6. Violation Options - Upon there appearing to be a violation of the provisions for the dual water meter, the City shall, at its option:

- Disconnect/Suspend Water Service. Disconnect or cause the disconnection of the dual water meter, the City may suspend water service to the premises until the disconnection has occurred.
- Sewer Charges. Charge the owner for whatever sewer charges should have been charged.
- Municipal Civil Infraction Citation. A written notice prepared by an authorized City official, directing a person to appear in court regarding the violation of this adopted policy.

**7. Termination - The City of Northville reserves the right to discontinue the dual meter program at any time, if it proves to be financially harmful to the City. In this case, the City of Northville will not allow an extension of this agreement /permit. In addition a Dual Water Meter Agreement/Permit will terminate upon the sale of the property from the permitted owner. Any new owner must sign a new agreement with the City agreeing to all the requirements of the Dual Water Meter Program, including the re-inspection of the dual meter system in the home.**

#### **IV. Responsibilities**

A. Property Owner - A dual water meter becomes the property of the property owner. This meter is to be replaced at the property owner's cost if it is determined to be malfunctioning or within 15 years from issuance of **an original** permit, which ever comes first.

**The property owner shall agree to practice reasonable water conservation practices. They shall also agree to follow mandatory water restrictions if ordered by the City in the event a water emergency is declared. Any disregard of mandatory water restriction shall be cause to terminate this agreement.**

B. City of Northville - The Northville City Council shall from time to time establish and set a sewer rate for water that goes through the dual water meter. This rate shall comply with the City's contractual obligations with Wayne County, and the City of Detroit for Sanitary Sewer charges.