



August 2024

WATER METER REPLACEMENT NOTICE

Overview

At the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, voters approved the purchase and installation of new water meters that residents will pay for through a quarterly **Capital Fee** on their Water Bill for three years. A water meter is required in each household that uses municipal water.

DPW has been piloting several different meters with residents in anticipation of soliciting requests for proposals for a town wide program. DPW and system users have had promising results finding leaks and monitoring usage in (near) real time.

Why are New Meters Needed?

Water Meters have an average life cycle of 20 years and the last replacement occurred around 2003-2004. Old meters can under-read which creates an inequitable billing distribution. Through the advancement of technology over the past two decades, “smart” meters are now widely used to give Towns more accurate readings. Smart Meters also provide homeowners the opportunity to monitor their own usage and habits.

What is the Cost?

The Town will front the cost of this capital project with a bond and property owners will repay the cost of the *meters only* over the course of three years (or 12 quarterly payments). The capital fee is assessed by your current water meter size (see below) and the first fee will be applied to the February 2025 water bill. The rates are based on the current cost of a meter divided by 12. This capital fee will end after the 12 payments.

Rates Per Quarter:

- 5/8 Inch Meter - \$25
- 3/4 Inch Meter - \$29
- 1 Inch Meter - \$42
- 1.5 Inch Meter - \$64
- 2 Inch Meter - \$90

Will Homeowners Incur any Additional Costs?

No. Only if a change to the current meter size is made by the property owner. If you have further questions, please contact water@manchester.ma.us.

When Will My New Meter be Installed?

Installation is expected to begin in January 2025 and will continue through April 2026. Specific details of when and how each household will get their meter will be communicated in October 2024.

NO ACTION IS REQUIRED OF RESIDENTS AT THIS TIME.

What are the Added Benefits of Smart Meters?

- Enables property owners to keep track of billing, water usage, and conservation through an app. or web based platform in (near) real time.
- Notification alerts to property owners of leaks or increased usage.
- Keep track of water usage when away from home.
- Provides the Town a more accurate record of water usage.

Learn More!

