

John Long

From: Ben Ewen-Campen <benforward3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 8:30 AM
To: Morrison House / Davis Square Inn; John Long
Subject: Re: Fire suppression water fee

Dear Mr. Dynneson -

Thank you very much for writing - I appreciate the frustration around this proposed new charge, and I also have several questions. I'm copying our city clerk, John Long, so that your comments are submitted as official comments for the record. So you know, Alderman-at-Large Bill White, who chairs the Finance Committee where this item will be presented to the BoA, told me that he anticipates it will be on our agenda for either May 21 or 22 - the agendas will be posted a minimum of 48 hours in advance, and all of our meetings are open to the public if you wish to attend.

Best,
Ben

On Mon, May 14, 2018 at 8:50 PM, Morrison House / Davis Square Inn <morrisonhousebnb@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Somerville aldermen,

I just attended the water rate meeting at the high school cafeteria. I feel that the presentation was slanted and filled with half-truths.

I understand that upgrades are required to the water system, but fire suppression systems have nothing to do with this. Any requirements for water flow and pressure come already from fire hydrants, so even if there were no sprinkler systems in Somerville, the same upgrades would need to take place. All costs of connecting to the water main are borne by the property holders. Whether there is one building in the city with sprinklers or 10,000, it does not change the costs to Somerville.

Also, it was stated that those who have fire sprinklers are the ones who benefit from them. Again, not true. The more fire sprinkler systems in the city the better. Safety for firefighters and residents and tenants are a benefit to the entire city, not just the ones who own the buildings

There are no insurance benefits to having a sprinkler system. I'm sure that the insurance companies consider the risk of accidentally flooding the building monetarily on par with the risk of an out of control fire.

Somerville should do everything in their power to encourage sprinkler systems, not discourage them. For or the safety of residents and of firefighters, this is a no brainer.

From my standpoint, as the owner of two bed and breakfasts, the new fee would be a considerable burden. From a fairness standpoint, the cost of any upgrade to the water system should be shared by all residents, not just the 4% currently who have sprinklers.

I also feel that the meeting was a mere formality and that the fee has already been decided. Please tell me this is not so, and vote against this unfair and counterproductive expense.

Sincerely,

Ronald Dynneson [221 Morrison ave.](mailto:221.Morrison.ave.).

=====

Ron & Linde Dynneson & Sue Simpson, Innkeepers
Morrison House Bed & Breakfast/Davis Square Inn

[617-627-9670](tel:617-627-9670)

Websites: [morrisonhousebnb dot com](http://morrisonhousebnb.com) / [davissqinn dot com](http://davissqinn.com)

--

Ben Ewen-Campen
Somerville Ward 3 Alderman
617-702-2613

Subscribe to the mailing list: <https://goo.gl/tffc49>

Committees:

Housing & Community Development (Chair)

Finance

Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Traffic & Parking

Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel

Rodents

John Long

From: Dan Mangino <dan.mangino@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 2:08 PM
To: Board of Aldermen
Cc: John Long; Penny Mangino; Ben Ewen-Campen
Subject: Opposed to fire suppression/sprinkler charge
Attachments: Opposed to fire suppression charge.pdf

Hello,

It is my understanding that proposed increases of water and sewer rates as well as a new fire suppression/sprinkler charge will be put forth for a vote by the BOA very soon. I received the untimely notice of a proposed fire sprinkler charge via US mail on Thursday evening, May 10 informing me of the public hearing on the matter Monday evening, May 14. I felt it necessary and important to juggle both my professional and personal schedule to attend this hearing.

Those of us in attendance voiced our displeasure with the timing of the notice received and the scheduled date only three days later of the hearing. It gave many little time to prepare or juggle commitments. Of the less than a dozen audience members in attendance, all were there to discuss this fire suppression charge. It was no coincidence that attendance was low because of the poor communication regarding this issue was circulated much too late. This is nothing short of unacceptable.

The PowerPoint presentation and website claims made by the water department and independent engineers portray a one-sided view of the "numbers" or "facts" that any constituent or reader who DOESN'T have a fire suppression or sprinkler system would come to no other conclusion that this "proposed" fee certainly appears fair and deemed appropriate to be assessed. **When in reality, this "fee" or "tax" is discriminatory and completely unfair.**

CLAIM

"Fire service lines are pipes that run from the City water main in the street into a building or property for the sole purpose of supplying water to fire sprinkler systems. This is a service which the large majority of water system customers do not receive."

FACT

Homes with sprinklers receive this "service" because the homeowner (or homeowner at the time) paid directly for it. Years ago the City required that our property at 9 Prescott have a sprinkler system be installed. We originally constructed our home in 2001 as a 2 family but my wife and I were having a hard time making the numbers work so in 2010 we sought to legally convert to a 3 family and the only way to do so was to install sprinklers. **It was done at sole**

cost to us, NOT the City - about \$50,000. From design, installation, to excavating the street and sidewalk, to connecting a second City water or "T" line connection - a premium was paid by us to satisfy City zoning ordinances. We also had to endure additional renovation costs towards our existing premises and tenant units as a result.

CLAIM

"...the subset of customers who have fire suppression connections receive the financial benefit of this service (through reduced fire insurance costs), the City does not recover the costs of providing fire suppression service from fire suppression customers."

FACT

Lower insurance costs is argumentative. While we are told we save on insurance, we have not seen that to be the case as coverage rates continue to rise every year since first owning back in 2001. We also have full security 24/365 monitoring (fire/burglar) but cannot monetize any savings. For the administration to make this claim is simply a canard and insulting on so many levels. Insurance companies have a way of making you think you are saving money but they get you someplace else on your bill. Not to mention of course, once a claim is ultimately filed, rates will automatically increase by default. We all know this to be true.

Further, we don't carry separate flood insurance. So in the event of a sprinkler release within the home, we truly don't know how the insurance company will react in providing or denying coverage on a particular claim. We think we are covered. We may be told we are covered but they hold the cards of course and will only base payouts to suit their interests.

Couldn't homeowners with fire suppression or sprinkler systems also make the claim that the City of Somerville saves on its own insurance costs for their firefighters because our homes are safer to enter?

CLAIM

"...costs are currently recovered through system-wide water usage (volumetric) charges to all users. Like a highway toll, the fire suppression charge will shift the cost of this service to those who receive the benefit."

FACT

The water department conveniently forgets that those of us with sprinklers have by default a back-flow device installed that the water Dept comes annually to test. This results in an annual fee paid by the homeowner.

CLAIM

"The fire suppression charge is a common way that municipalities ensure that customers receiving these additional benefits contribute financially to pay for the cost the City incurs in providing those benefits.

In addition, property owners with fire service connections receive the benefit of immediate access to large volumes of unmetered water to protect their buildings and occupants from fire. Buildings with fire suppression sprinklers tend to receive lower insurance rates, which can help offset the cost of fire suppression charges.”

FACT

The City makes it sound like this “unmetered” water is *running unfettered* from our units. The fact is water in these sprinkler lines sits and sits and sits until called upon either during a routine 5 minute or less annual test (an additional fee currently paid by the homeowner) OR an actual fire event, which thankfully we have not had occur and hope to never have occur.

Again, we bore the full cost for tapping into the water line for this connection (not the City) and we cannot quantify lower insurance costs for reasons mentioned earlier. We already pay for annual testing and maintenance either required by the City or done so on our own.

FACT

This proposed measure is punitive to us residents who have paid for a sprinkler system and thereby made our homes and neighborhoods safer – safer for residents and firefighters alike. To impose a new charge for unused sprinkler water is unfair. Conversely, the City of Somerville DOES NOT charge back homeowners for water usage under or during instances of traditional hose and hydrant. **This is discriminatory.**

Further, it is unfair that we must pay this new fee on top of annual backflow testing and on top of the general W&S increase itself.

FACT

Homes with fire sprinkler systems are proven to use less water than traditional hose and hydrant. This results in savings for the City of Somerville. For the City to then, in turn, charge homeowners for savings they benefit from is unconscionable.

FACT

Even higher rents. If not a large development, most properties in Somerville that fall under this proposed measure are multifamily dwellings. No matter if owner occupied (like in my case) or absentee, this will be yet another charge that is *passed on to tenants* - guaranteed.

The City complains about housing costs and lack of affordability. This charge is without merit and in the end only serves to penalize tenants and people who live in sprinklered buildings because they are the ones who will end up paying in the way of *higher rents*.

Somewhat to our chagrin, my wife and I charge well below FMV for rent. As owner occupied landlords our motivation is different than that of absentee landlords. We don't make a habit of raising our rents as we don't like new folks moving in and out of our home every year. We prefer stability for our family and that our tenants stay living here for a few years and make some roots, embracing all this city has to offer. That has been our track record as landlords in Somerville.

With yet another proposed charge, this administration is helping to price people out - the very same folks they aim or claim to protect.

If the BOA doesn't vote this measure down or at least table it for further discussion, I offer two sensible solutions to this problem:

1) Require that homeowners install an actual meter on this second sprinkler line. This will clearly show use or lack thereof. Then bill accordingly.

2) Charge ALL (sprinklered or not) homeowners AFTER and only after a fire event.

At the hearing last week, I asked the question with 45 days left in the current fiscal year and this "proposed" fee starting fiscal 2019 - "is there a line item for this fire suppression revenue stream in the budget?" and with the answer from Mr. Deluca being "YES" that "if it isn't passed it will create a budget line deficit".

Well this has the sounds of a measure already being rubber stamped. The consensus in the room was that we were invited there to speak just to make us think our voices are being heard. We felt defeated. Like we wasted our time and were duped. No elected official should state or suggest that this is OK. This is not how democracy works and this is not how city government should make their citizens feel.

If the BOA passes this measure, it underscores the failure of local government.

Damian (Dan) Mangino
9 Prescott Street

May 21, 2018

Hello,

It is my understanding that proposed increases of water and sewer rates as well as a new fire suppression/sprinkler charge will be put forth for a vote by the BOA very soon. I received the untimely notice of a proposed fire sprinkler charge via US mail on Thursday evening, May 10 informing me of the public hearing on the matter Monday evening, May 14. I felt it necessary and important to juggle both my professional and personal schedule to attend this hearing.

Those of us in attendance voiced our displeasure with the timing of the notice received and the scheduled date only three days later of the hearing. It gave many little time to prepare or juggle commitments. Of the less than a dozen audience members in attendance, all were there to discuss this fire suppression charge. It was no coincidence that attendance was low because of the poor communication regarding this issue was circulated much too late. This is nothing short of unacceptable.

The PowerPoint presentation and website claims made by the water department and independent engineers portray a one-sided view of the "numbers" or "facts" that any constituent or reader who DOESN'T have a fire suppression or sprinkler system would come to no other conclusion that this "proposed" fee certainly appears fair and deemed appropriate to be assessed. **When in reality, this "fee" or "tax" is discriminatory and completely unfair.**

CLAIM

"Fire service lines are pipes that run from the City water main in the street into a building or property for the sole purpose of supplying water to fire sprinkler systems. This is a service which the large majority of water system customers do not receive."

FACT

Homes with sprinklers receive this "service" because the homeowner (or homeowner at the time) paid directly for it. Years ago the City required that our property at 9 Prescott have a sprinkler system be installed. We originally constructed our home in 2001 as a 2 family but my wife and I were having a hard time making the numbers work so in 2010 we sought to legally convert to a 3 family and the only way to do so was to install sprinklers. **It was done at sole cost to us, NOT the City** - about \$50,000. From design, installation, to excavating the street and sidewalk, to connecting a second City water or "T" line connection - a premium was paid by us to satisfy City zoning ordinances. We also had to endure additional renovation costs towards our existing premises and tenant units as a result.

CLAIM

"...the subset of customers who have fire suppression connections receive the financial benefit of this service (through reduced fire insurance costs), the City does not recover the costs of providing fire suppression service from fire suppression customers."

FACT

Lower insurance costs is argumentative. While we are told we save on insurance, we have not seen that to be the case as coverage rates continue to rise every year since first owning back in 2001. We also have full security 24/365 monitoring (fire/burglar) but cannot monetize any savings. For the administration to make this claim is simply a canard and insulting on so many levels. Insurance companies have a way of making you

think you are saving money but they get you someplace else on your bill. Not to mention of course, once a claim is ultimately filed, rates will automatically increase by default. We all know this to be true.

Further, we don't carry separate flood insurance. So in the event of a sprinkler release within the home, we truly don't know how the insurance company will react in providing or denying coverage on a particular claim. We think we are covered. We may be told we are covered but they hold the cards of course and will only base payouts to suit their interests.

Couldn't homeowners with fire suppression or sprinkler systems also make the claim that the City of Somerville saves on its own insurance costs for their firefighters because our homes are safer to enter?

CLAIM

"...costs are currently recovered through system-wide water usage (volumetric) charges to all users. Like a highway toll, the fire suppression charge will shift the cost of this service to those who receive the benefit."

FACT

The water department conveniently forgets that those of us with sprinklers have by default a back-flow device installed that the water Dept comes annually to test. This results in an annual fee paid by the homeowner.

CLAIM

"The fire suppression charge is a common way that municipalities ensure that customers receiving these additional benefits contribute financially to pay for the cost the City incurs in providing those benefits.

In addition, property owners with fire service connections receive the benefit of immediate access to large volumes of unmetered water to protect their buildings and occupants from fire. Buildings with fire suppression sprinklers tend to receive lower insurance rates, which can help offset the cost of fire suppression charges."

FACT

The City makes it sound like this "unmetered" water is running unfettered from our units. The fact is water in these sprinkler lines sits and sits and sits until called upon either during a routine 5 minute or less annual test (an additional fee currently paid by the homeowner) OR an actual fire event, which thankfully we have not had occur and hope to never have occur.

Again, we bore the full cost for tapping into the water line for this connection (not the City) and we cannot quantify lower insurance costs for reasons mentioned earlier. We already pay for annual testing and maintenance either required by the City or done so on our own.

FACT

This proposed measure is punitive to us residents who have paid for a sprinkler system and thereby made our homes and neighborhoods safer – safer for residents and firefighters alike. To impose a new charge for unused sprinkler water is unfair. Conversely, the City of Somerville DOES NOT charge back homeowners for water usage under or during instances of traditional hose and hydrant. **This is discriminatory.**

Further, it is unfair that we must pay this new fee on top of annual backflow testing and on top of the general W&S increase itself.

FACT

Homes with fire sprinkler systems are proven to use less water than traditional hose and hydrant. This results in savings for the City of Somerville. For the City to then, in turn, charge homeowners for savings they benefit from is unconscionable.

FACT

Even higher rents. If not a large development, most properties in Somerville that fall under this proposed measure are multifamily dwellings. No matter if owner occupied (like in my case) or absentee, this will be yet another charge that is *passed on to tenants* - guaranteed.

The City complains about housing costs and lack of affordability. This charge is without merit and in the end only serves to penalize tenants and people who live in sprinklered buildings because they are the ones who will end up paying in the way of *higher rents*.

Somewhat to our chagrin, my wife and I charge well below FMV for rent. As owner occupied landlords our motivation is different than that of absentee landlords. We don't make a habit of raising our rents as we don't like new folks moving in and out of our home every year. We prefer stability for our family and that our tenants stay living here for a few years and make some roots, embracing all this city has to offer. That has been our track record as landlords in Somerville.

With yet another proposed charge, this administration is helping to price people out - the very same folks they aim or claim to protect.

If the BOA doesn't vote this measure down or at least table it for further discussion, I offer two sensible solutions to this problem:

- 1) Require that homeowners install an actual meter on this second sprinkler line. This will clearly show use or lack thereof. Then bill accordingly.**
- 2) Charge ALL (sprinklered or not) homeowners AFTER and only after a fire event.**

At the hearing last week, I asked the question with 45 days left in the current fiscal year and this "proposed" fee starting fiscal 2019 - "is there a line item for this fire suppression revenue stream in the budget?" and with the answer from Mr. Deluca being "YES" that "if it isn't passed it will create a budget line deficit".

Well this has the sounds of a measure already being rubber stamped. The consensus in the room was that we were invited there to speak just to make us think our voices are being heard. We felt defeated. Like we wasted our time and were duped. No elected official should state or suggest that this is OK. This is not how democracy works and this is not how city government should make their citizens feel.

If the BOA passes this measure, it underscores the failure of local government.

Damian (Dan) Mangino
9 Prescott Street

John Long

From: Stephen Mackey <smackey@somervillechamber.org>
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2018 5:13 PM
To: John DeLuca
Cc: John Long; City Clerk Contact; Katjana Ballantyne; Board of Aldermen
Subject: Proposed new fire suppression charge
Attachments: 18firesuppressionletter.pdf

Hello Mr. DeLuca,
Please see attached letter regarding the proposed new fire suppression charge.
Thank you,
Stephen

Stephen V. Mackey, President/CEO
Somerville Chamber of Commerce
2 Alpine Street, P.O. Box 440343
Somerville, MA 02144
smackey@somervillechamber.org
617-776-4100
www.somervillechamber.org



2 Alpine Street, P.O. Box 440343 Somerville, MA 02144
www.somervillechamber.org

May 21, 2018

Director John DeLuca
City of Somerville Water & Sewer Department
17 Franey Road
Somerville, MA 02145

RE: Fire Suppression Charge

Dear Mr. DeLuca,

City ordinance says "Prior to setting the new sewer service charge, the water and sewer superintendent shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed charge no later than May 15 of any given year with notice of any new charges provided to the board of aldermen at least 14 days prior to the public hearing."

The Department, in due time and with proper notice, alerted the Board of Aldermen on April 26, 2018, "Pursuant to Chapter 11, Section 11-125 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Somerville,...To provide background, answer questions, and take public testimony regarding the proposed fiscal year 2019 Fire Suppression Charge, a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 14th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Avenue."

However, the lack of a clear and timely notice to the general public and to ratepayers may void the public hearing. The public notice which appeared in The Somerville Times May 2, 2018 provided no "notice of any new charges" particularly a new fire suppression charge. Likewise, neither the City's website "Calendar" nor the "Water & Sewer" homepage mentioned "any new charges" particularly a new fire suppression charge. The letter notifying property owners of a new fire suppression charge was apparently not mailed in a timely manner. The letter was dated Friday, May 4, 2018 and was not received until Friday, May 11. The hearing was on Monday May 14. Somerville charges go as high as \$6,200. Cambridge charges a flat fee of \$500.

The ordinance concludes:

Failure to hold a public hearing or provide the proposed charges to the board for its review on or before June 1 as required above shall prohibit the city from increasing charges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen V. Mackey", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephen V. Mackey, President/CEO
smackey@somervillechamber.org O 617-776-4100 M 617-413-5071

CC: Members, Board of Aldermen boardofaldermen@somervillema.gov
Katjana Ballantyne, President, Board of Aldermen katjana@katjana.org
John Long, City Clerk cityclerk@somervillema.gov

CITY ORDINANCE: User charge means a charge levied on users of the treatment works for the cost of operation of said works in accordance with Section 204(b) of the Act. (b) User charges. (1) Established. Charges for sewer service shall be established by the superintendent of the water and sewer department, subject to the approval of the mayor and board of aldermen. Prior to setting the new sewer service charge, the water and sewer superintendent shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed charge no later than May 15 of any given year with notice of any new charges provided to the board of aldermen at least 14 days prior to the public hearing. Any proposed new charges shall be provided to the board of aldermen on or before June 1 of any given year for its review and approval. Charges may be adjusted, subsequent to initial approval by the superintendent, with the approval of the mayor and board of aldermen, without the necessity of a public hearing, to reflect any changes in any charge assessed to the city by any governmental body or agency of the commonwealth. If any such adjustment results in a lower charge than previously set, the new charge shall take effect immediately upon approval by the mayor and board of aldermen. If such adjusted charge is higher than otherwise set, the new charge shall take effect no sooner than 30 days after approval by the mayor and board of aldermen. Failure to hold a public hearing or provide the proposed charges to the board for its review on or before June 1 as required above shall prohibit the city from increasing charges.



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR**

**JOHN DELUCA
WATER & SEWER DIRECTOR**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Director of the Water & Sewer Department will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 14, 2018** in the Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Avenue, at 6:00 pm. The purpose of this hearing is to compile testimony from Somerville rate payers relevant to the setting of the Fiscal Year 2019 water and sewer rates. Anyone interested in providing testimony is welcome to attend and will be heard. Written testimony will be accepted until Friday, May 18 at noon to waterandsewer@somervillema.gov.

**John Deluca
Director**



Home > Calendar

SUGGEST AN EVENT

Filter By

Department

Event Type

- Any -

Apply

Title

Submit

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Today

All Upcoming Events, Starting on May 14, 2018

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL LUNCH & BINGO

Mon, 05/14/2018 - 11:00am

Join us for Mother's Day Special Lunch & Bingo. Please see flyer for details.

INFO SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY19 WATER AND SEWER RATES

Mon, 05/14/2018 - 6:00pm

The Director of the Water & Sewer Department will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 14, 2018 in the Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Avenue, at 6:00 pm. The purpose of this hearing is to compile testimony from Somerville rate payers relevant to the setting of the Fiscal Year 2019 water and sewer rates. Anyone interested in providing testimony is welcome to attend and will



Home > Events > Info Session & Public Hearing on Proposed FY19 Water and Sewer Rates

About the Event

Event Monday, May 14, 2018 - 6:00pm

LOCATION

Somerville High School Cafeteria
81 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143

The Director of the Water & Sewer Department will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 14, 2018 in the Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Avenue, at 6:00 pm. The purpose of this hearing is to compile testimony from Somerville rate payers relevant to the setting of the Fiscal Year 2019 water and sewer rates. Anyone interested in providing testimony is welcome to attend and will be heard. Written testimony will be accepted until Friday, May 18 at noon to waterandsewer@somervillema.gov.

Print

I'M GOING!

Cost: FREE

Accessible

Need special assistance? [Request accommodations](#)

Add to Calendar

Contact

Mark Lawhorne

Email

mlawhorne@somervillema.gov

[VIEW ALL STAFF CONTACTS >](#)

Presented by

- Water and Sewer



Text Size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

[Contact Us](#) [Calendar](#) [News](#) [Site Map](#) [Cambridge Home Page](#)

Cambridge Water Department

Search

- SERVICES
- PROJECTS
- FRESH POND RESERVATION
- PROGRAMS
- WATER BILL INFO
- PERMITS
- ABOUT US

Administration Division

- [Automated Meter Reading System Upgrade](#)
- [Cold Weather Precautions](#)
- [Water Bill Information](#)
- [Water Conservation](#)
- [Water Quiz](#)
- [Understanding Your Water Bill](#)
- [High Reads, Leaks and Meter Replacement](#)
- [High Read Contact Information](#)
- [Automated Meter Reading Device, Broken or Damaged Meters](#)
- [Cross Connection Control](#)
- [Fire Service Fee Information](#)
- [Water Service Line Coverage](#)
- [Budget](#)
- [Staff](#)

[Water](#) > [Administration Division](#) > [Fire Service Fee Information](#)

Fire Service Fee Information

One of the key purposes for the storage and pumping capacity of a water system is its ability to provide for adequate fire protection. Over the years, the Cambridge Water Department has spent several million dollars for this specific purpose resulting in a Class 1 fire rating for the City of Cambridge, which enables all facilities with fire suppression systems to qualify for reduced fire insurance rates. As a point of reference, there are 62 class 1 communities across the country of which Cambridge is the one.

Water distribution system components such as pipes, pumps and storage tanks are sized and designed to provide the flows needed to fight fires and supply water to fire suppression sprinklers. The construction, maintenance and operation of these system components add to the overall system costs, yet do not necessarily benefit all water rate payers in the City. Also, water for fire protection purposes is not metered and there is no charge for the water used for fire fighting. As a result, Cambridge has established a flat fee of \$500.00 for each commercial each fire service connection that they have.

The following information should help clarify the background for implementing the fire service fee.

Fire services are pipes that run from the City water main in the street into a building or property for the primary purpose of supplying fire sprinkler systems and/or hydrants.

Property owners with fire services receive the benefit of immediate access to large volumes of water to protect their buildings and occupants from fire. Buildings with fire suppression sprinklers also tend to receive lower insurance rates.

The Cambridge Water Department does not provide any other services to the owner as a result of this charge, does not maintain privately owned hydrants, fire suppression sprinkler systems, or fire service pipes and associated valves.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Information for:

I'd like to:

Water Dept. Divisions:



SAM CORDA
 MANAGING DIRECTOR

Cambridge Water Department
 250 Fresh Pond Parkway
 Cambridge MA 02138