



## **SPRINKLING METERS**

Dear Utility Customer:

The City of Dowagiac has implemented a program whereby property owners will not be charged sewer rates for lawn/garden sprinkling if they separate their plumbing for installation of a separate water meter.

The attached diagram indicates how your plumbing must be separated to accommodate the additional meter. Under State Code, either the property owner or a State-licensed plumber may perform the work. The City will supply the meter and base. If you are interested in participating in this program, you will need to proceed as follows:

1. Sign the attached agreement. If you are a tenant, the property owner must also sign the agreement.
2. Deliver this agreement, along with payment of \$10.00 (cash or check) for the initial turn-on charge, to the Department of Public Services, 241 South Front Street.
3. The City does not require a building permit for separating plumbing to accommodate a sprinkling meter, but you must obtain a plumbing permit from the Dowagiac Building Department, 241 South Front Street. All fees for this permit are remitted directly to, and used exclusively by, the City of Dowagiac. Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the Dowagiac Building Department at (269) 782-8427.
4. When you receive your permit, bring it to the Department of Public Services Stockroom at 501 South Front Street and you will be able to pick-up the meter setting supplies at that time. Please be sure to bring the plumbing permit with you, as we cannot issue the meter setting supplies without a copy.
5. Once the separate plumbing and meter setting have been installed, contact the Dowagiac Building Department (269-782-8427) to schedule an inspection. Call at least 24 hours in advance.
6. After the Plumbing Inspector has performed an on-site inspection, approved all plumbing work, and provided the City with documentation indicating same, the Department of Public Services will schedule installation of your sprinkling meter. As part of the installation process for your sprinkling meter, the Department of Public Services will inspect the meter setting. If the setting is appropriate, your sprinkling meter will be installed and your sprinkling service will be available for use that day.
7. A separate charge for your sprinkling service will appear on your next monthly City utility bill, and on all bills thereafter, until the Utility Billing Office (269-782-2195) is notified to discontinue the sprinkling service.

If you should have any questions concerning the above, please contact the Department of Public Services at (269) 782-8200.

Attachments: 3



## SPRINKLING METER APPLICATION and AGREEMENT

I hereby request participation in the City's lawn and garden sprinkling metering and billing procedures:

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

CUSTOMER'S NAME (or applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER'S ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER'S TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Effective May 18, 1989, the City revised Section 82.225 of Chapter 82 of the Code of the City of Dowagiac regarding "Special Meters". If you desire to avoid being assessed sewer charges for lawn and garden sprinkling, you must follow the procedures as indicated in the following excerpts of Section 82.225, "Special Meters", of the Dowagiac City Code and Sections P2902.3.3, "Hose Connection", and P2902.4.3, "Lawn irrigation systems", of the Michigan Residential Code.

### DOWAGIAC CITY CODE:

#### "82.225. Special Meters.

- (a) Lawn and garden sprinkling may be provided without sewer charges if a separate water meter is installed by Department of Public Services at the request of the customer. The customer will be responsible for making all plumbing changes or alterations necessary to install the separate line from the lateral to the spigots to be utilized. A meter set in series for subtraction purposes will not be permitted.
- (b) The plumbing to and from the sprinkling meter will be inspected by Department of Public Services prior to the installation of a new meter. Any subsequent alterations to the plumbing connected to the lawn sprinkling meter shall not be made without the prior approval of the Department of Public Services.
- (c) The sprinkling meter will not be assessed any water readiness-to-serve charges. Water consumption charges for such meter will be calculated independently of any other metered supply and cannot be combined with other metered consumption for purposes of volume or step rate reductions.

- (d) The City of Dowagiac reserves the right to discontinue any lawn sprinkling or gardening meter when, in the judgment of the City, such meter is being utilized for other water supply purposes or to circumvent the payment of sewer charges. In that event, a retroactive bill, including sewer charges, will become due and payable for the period the lawn sprinkling meter was used for other purposes up to a maximum of three years.
- (e) The installation of, or the removal of, said meter will be subject to turn-on and turn-off charges as provided in subsection 82-10(1)."

MICHIGAN RESIDENTIAL CODE:

"P2902.3.3. Hose Connection. Sillcocks, hose bibbs, wall hydrants and other openings with a hose connection shall be protected by an atmospheric-type or pressure-type vacuum breaker or a permanently attached hose connection vacuum breaker.

**Exceptions:**

- 1. This section shall not apply to water heater and boiler drain valves that are provided with hose connection threads and that are intended only for tank or vessel draining.
- 2. This section shall not apply to water supply valves intended for connection of clothes washing machines where backflow prevention is otherwise provided or is integral with the machine."

"P2902.4.3. Lawn Irrigation Systems. The potable water supply to lawn irrigation systems shall be protected against backflow by an atmospheric-type vacuum breaker, a pressure-type vacuum breaker or a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer. A valve shall not be installed downstream from an atmospheric vacuum breaker. All devices shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions."

I certify that I am the property owner or have his/her permission and authority to sign this agreement. I understand that if the special meter is not being utilized as required by this agreement that said meter will be disconnected and I and/or the property owner will be retroactively billed for all charges, including sewer charges, for that period which the meter was improperly utilized.

I / We understand and agree to the aforementioned regulations concerning this program which became effective on May 18, 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Property Owner (If Different from Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

-----**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE**-----

INITIAL METER TURN-ON CHARGE OF \$ 10.00 PAID IN FULL.

Received by \_\_\_\_\_  
Department of Public Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

