

SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT

BY-LAWS



Seekonk Water District
50 Water Lane
Seekonk, Massachusetts 02771

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ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

Section 1: The Officers of the District shall be as specified and directed by Chapter 381 of the Acts of 1945.

(approved 3/10/47)
by Legislature &
District

AMENDED

Section 1: Chapter 299 of the Acts of 1991

(approved 11/4/91)
by Legislature

AMENDED

Section 1: Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1995

(approved 11/22/95)
by Legislature

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS

Section 1: ~~For the year 1948 and for each year thereafter the Annual Meeting shall be held on the 2nd Monday of March.~~

Section 2: Meetings of the District shall be called by a majority of the Water Commissioners; and must be called by the Water Commissioners when requested in writing by ten or more legal voters of the District. Meetings shall be called by a warrant from the Water Commissioners addressed to a person authorized to post such a warrant. Copies of the warrant shall be posted in two or more public places within the District at least seven days before the time of the meeting; which warrant shall briefly state the purpose of the meeting.

(approved 3/10/47)
by District

AMENDED

Section 1: ~~Change the date of the 1968 Annual District meeting from the second Monday to the second Tuesday in March, 1968 and each year thereafter.~~

(approved 3/14/67)
by District

AMENDED

Section 1: Change the date of the Annual Water District meeting to the second Tuesday in May of 1975 and each year thereafter.

(approved 3/12/74)
by District

ARTICLE III

FINANCES

Section 1: ~~The financial year shall be the calendar year.~~

Section 2: No money shall be paid from the treasury without written approval or order of a majority of the Water Commissioners.

(approved 3/10/47)
by District

AMENDED

Section 1: State Law changed the financial year from the calendar year to the fiscal year.

(approved 1973)
by Legislature

ARTICLE IV

AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These By-laws may be altered, amended, repealed and added to at any meeting of the District, provided notice of such proposal is set forth in the call for the meeting.

(approved 3/10/47)
by District

ARTICLE V

QUORUM

Section 1: No business shall be transacted at any District meeting unless there is a quorum present consisting of at least twenty-five (25) legal voters of the District including the elected officers of the Water District.

(approved 5/12/81)
by District

ARTICLE VI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The election of Officers shall be by paper ballot except when only one person is nominated for any one office the vote is by acclamation. Ballots will be provided by the Water District.

(approved 5/12/81)
by District

AMENDED

Section 1: The election of Commissioners shall be at the Town Election, per Chapter 299 of the Acts of 1991.

(approved 11/4/91)
by Legislature

ARTICLE VII

WATER SUPPLY BY-LAW

Section 1: **Authority;**

This By-law is adopted by the Seekonk Water District under its home rule powers, its police powers to protect public health and welfare and its specific authorization under M.G.L. c.40, s.21 and 21D.

Section 2: **Purpose;**

The purpose of this By-law is to protect, preserve, and maintain the public health, safety and welfare whenever there is in force a state of water supply emergency by providing for enforcement of all duly imposed restrictions, requirements, provisions or conditions imposed by the District or by the Department and included in the District's plan approved by the Department of Environmental Protection to abate the emergency.

Section 3: **Definitions, For the purpose of this By-law;**

- **enforcement authority** shall mean the Districts Board of Water Commissioners, the Town Police, special police and any other locally designated body having police powers.
- **state of water supply emergency** shall mean a state of water supply emergency declared by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to G.L. c.21G, s.15 through 17, G.L. c.111, s.160 or by the Governor.

Section 4: The following shall apply to all users of water supplied by the Seekonk Water District;

- Following notification by the District of the existence of a state of water supply emergency, no person shall violate any provision, condition, requirement or restriction included in a plan approved by the Department of Environmental Protection which has as its purpose the abatement of a water supply emergency.
- Notification of any provision, restriction, requirement, or condition with which users of water supplied by the District are required to comply to abate a situation of water emergency shall be sufficient for purposes of this By-law if it is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District or by such other notice as is reasonably calculated to reach and inform all users of the District supply.

Section 5: **Penalty;**

Any person or entity who violates this By-law, shall be liable to the District in the amount of \$50.00 for the first violation and \$100.00 for each subsequent violation which shall inure to the District for such uses as the Board of Water Commissioners may direct. Fines shall be recovered by indictment or on complaint before the District Court or by non-criminal disposition in accordance with Section 21D of Chapter 40 of the General Laws. Each separate instance of non-compliance following the issuance of any warning or citation pursuant to this section shall constitute a separate violation.

Section 6: **Right of Entry;**

Agents of the enforcement authority may enter any property for the purpose of inspecting or investigating any violation of this By-law or enforcing against the same.

Section 7: **Severability;**

The invalidity of any portion or provision of this By-law shall invalidate any other portion, provision or section hereof.

(approved 5/8/90)
by District

ARTICLE VIII

DEMAND FEES

Section 1: For the fiscal year 1990/1991 and each fiscal year thereafter, all “DEMAND FEES” collected by the Town Collector for the Water District’s Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes shall be turned over to the Town of Seekonk by the Collector to offset the expenses in collecting the Water District’s taxes.

(approved 5/8/90)
by District

ARTICLE IX

ILLEGAL USE OF FIRE HYDRANTS

Section 1: Whoever willfully or wantonly opens a fire hydrant for the sole purpose of vandalism or obtaining unmetered water without first obtaining a permit from the Seekonk Water District, shall forfeit and pay to the District the sum of \$100.00 for each offense or twice the amount of any and all damages, whichever is greater. This By-law is not intended to restrict the use of fire hydrants by the Fire Department or the Seekonk Public Works Department in their normal operations.

(approved 5/14/91)
by District

ARTICLE X

WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Section 1: Authority;

This By-law is adopted by the District under its police powers to protect public health and welfare and its powers under Chapter 381 of the Acts of 1945 and implements the District's authority to regulate water use pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 69B. This By-law also implements the District's authority under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 41A, conditioned upon a declaration of water supply emergency issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 2: Purpose;

The purpose of this By-law is to protect, preserve and maintain the public health, safety and welfare whenever there is a Water Management Program of State of Water Supply Emergency by providing for enforcement of any duly imposed restrictions, requirements, provisions or conditions imposed by the District or by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 3: Definitions;

- Person shall mean any individual, corporation trust, partnership or association, or other entity.
- State of Water Supply Emergency shall mean a State of Water Supply Emergency declared by the Department of Environmental Protection under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 21G, Sections 15-17.
- Water Management Program shall mean a Water Supply Conservation Program declared by the District pursuant to Section 4 of this by-law.

Section 4: Declaration of Water Management Program;

The District, through its Board of Water Commissioners, may declare a Water Management Program upon determination by a majority vote of the Board that a shortage of water exists and conservation measures are appropriate to ensure an adequate supply of water to all water consumers. Public notice of a Water Management Program shall be given under Section 6 of this By-law before it may be enforced.

Section 5: Restricted Water Use;

A mandatory Water Management Program shall include one or more of the following restrictions, conditions, or requirements limiting the use of outdoor water as necessary to protect the water supply. The applicable restrictions, conditions or requirements shall be included in the public notice required under Section 6.

- a) Odd/Even Day Outdoor Watering; Outdoor watering by water users with odd numbered addresses are restricted to odd numbered calendar days. Outdoor watering by water users with even numbered addresses restricted to even numbered calendar days.
- b) Outdoor Watering Ban; Outdoor watering is prohibited.
- c) Outdoor Watering Hours; Outdoor watering is permitted only during periods of low demand and to be specified in the Water Management Program and public notice thereof.
- d) Filling Swimming Pools; Filling of swimming pools is prohibited.
- e) Automatic Sprinkler Use; The use of automatic sprinkler systems is prohibited.

Section 6: Public Notification of a Mandatory Water Management Program, Notification of DEP;

Notification of any provision, restriction, requirement or condition imposed by the District as part of a Mandatory Water Management Program shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District, or by such other means reasonably calculated to reach and inform all users of water of the Mandatory Water Management Program. Any restrictions imposed under Section 5 shall not be effective until such notification is provided. Notification of a Mandatory Water Management Program shall also be simultaneously provided to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 7: Termination of a Mandatory Water Management Program, Notice;

The Mandatory Water Management Program may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board of Water Commissioners, upon a determination that the water supply shortage no longer exists. Public notification of the termination of the Mandatory Water Management Program shall be given in the same manner required by Section 6.

Section 8: State of Water Supply Emergency, compliance with DEP Orders;

Upon notification to the public that a declaration of a State of Water Supply Emergency has been issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, no person shall violate any provision, restriction, requirement, condition or any order approved or issued by the Department intended to bring about an end to the State of Emergency.

Section 9: Penalties;

~~Any person violating this By law shall be liable to the District in the amount of \$50.00 for the first violation and \$100.00 for each subsequent violation which shall inure to the District for such uses as the Board of Water Commissioners may direct. Fines shall be recovered by indictment, or on complaint before the District Court, or by non-criminal disposition in accordance with Section 21D of Chapter 40 of the General Laws. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.~~

Section 10: Severability;

The invalidity of any portion or provision of this By-law shall not invalidate any other portion or provision thereof.

(approved 5/9/95)
by the District

AMENDED

Section 9: Penalties

Any person violating this by-law shall be subject to the following fines:

- First Offense: Written warning
- Second Offense: \$ 50.00 fine
- Third Offense: \$100.00 fine
- Fourth Offense: Termination of water until the matter of Continued violation is resolved

This section shall be enforced under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 21D. Upon a violation of this by-law, the Board of Water Commissioners shall serve a written notice to appear before the clerk of court of the district court not later than 21 days after receipt of said notice. Therefore, the procedures set forth in Chapter 40, section 21D, shall be followed.

(Approved 5/12/98)
by the District

ARTICLE XI

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Section 1: All Irrigation systems other than for residential lawn and garden maintenance must be supplied either by an on site well or alternate water supply if the user is unable to adhere to the District’s annual outdoor “Water Management Program” as set forth in Section 2 below.

Section 2: **Definitions;**

PHASE 1: Voluntary compliance with odd/even program

Users are asked to restrict the hours for outdoor water use as determined by the Water District. Properties with odd numbered addresses are encouraged to irrigate on odd numbered calendar days and properties with even numbered addresses are encouraged to water on even numbered calendar days. Because Phase 1 is voluntary, violators will be asked to comply.

PHASE 2: Mandatory compliance with odd/even program

Requires users to comply with the odd/even program. Water District personnel will issue a violation notice for non-compliance. The Seekonk Police Department will be asked to report violators to the Water District. Because this phase is mandatory, violators will be subject to fines and water shut-off will take place when apparent disregard for the program is determined.

PHASE 3: Total ban on use of outdoor water

Strict enforcement will be implemented. Water District personnel and Police Department personnel will issue violation notices. Fines will be levied and water shut-off on the properties will take place where disregard for the BAN is apparent.

Any person violating this by-law shall be subject to the following fines:

- First Offense: Written warning
- Second Offense: \$ 50.00 fine
- Third Offense: \$100.00 fine
- Fourth Offense: Termination of water until matter of continued violation is resolved.

This section shall be enforced under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 21D. Upon a violation of this by-law, the Board of Water Commissioners shall serve a written notice before the clerk of the district court not later than 21 days after receipt of this notice. Therefore, the procedures set forth in Chapter 40, Section 21D, shall be followed.

(Approved 5/13/03)
by the District

CHAPTER 381: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT OF SEEKONK.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. The inhabitants of the town of Seekonk liable to taxation in said town and residing within the territory comprised within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at a point where the town boundaries between Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Seekonk and Attleboro, Massachusetts.—Seekonk intersect at the extreme northwest portion of Seekonk, thence southerly 7.3 miles along the boundary between Pawtucket and East Providence in Rhode Island and Seekonk to a point 1,000 feet south of Highland avenue; thence running southeasterly 4,400 feet parallel to Highland avenue to the center line of Mink street; thence southeasterly 4,400 feet to the center line of Warren avenue at a point approximately 400 feet south of Fall River avenue; thence southeasterly 2,200 feet to a point opposite the easterly line of Wheaton street, and 200 feet south of Fall River avenue; thence 450 feet northeasterly along the east line of Wheaton avenue; thence northwesterly 3,200 feet to the center line of Anthony street at a point 400 feet north of Fall River avenue; thence northwesterly 6,200 feet to the center line of Cole street, at a point 250 feet east of Fall River avenue; thence northeasterly 3,500 feet to the center line of County street at a point 1,700 feet west of Olney street; thence 3,200 feet to the center line of Arcade avenue at a point 1,300 feet northeast of the intersection of Fall River avenue; thence northeasterly 5,500 feet to the center line of Elm street at a point 550 feet south of Taunton avenue; thence easterly 5,850 feet to the town boundary between Rehoboth and Seekonk at a point 250 feet south of Taunton avenue; thence due north 2,700 feet along the Rehoboth-Seekonk boundary to a point 300 feet north of Jacobs street; thence southwesterly 2,900 feet to a point 300 feet east of Prospect street and 550 feet north of the intersection of Lincoln and Jacobs streets; thence northerly 1,800 feet parallel to Prospect street; thence southwesterly 600 feet, crossing Prospect street at a point 1,300 feet south of Walnut street; thence southerly 2,200 feet parallel with Prospect street; thence westerly 2,300 feet to the center line of Greenwood avenue at a point 300

feet north of Ledge road; thence due north 1,400 feet; thence northwesterly 3,900 feet to the center line of Woodward avenue at a point 2,100 feet east of Coolidge street; thence northerly 2,850 feet to the center line of Walker street at a point 1,800 feet west of Prospect street; thence northerly 1,300 feet to the center line of Read street at a point 1,800 feet east of Newman avenue; thence northerly 3,300 feet to the center line of Brown avenue at a point 1,850 feet northeast of Newman avenue; thence northerly 6,700 feet to the center line of Pine street at a point 350 feet north of Woodland avenue; thence northeasterly 6,400 feet parallel to the east boundary line of New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad property to the boundary between Seekonk and Attleboro at a point 3,200 feet west of northeast corner boundary of Seekonk, Rehoboth and Attleboro; thence westerly 7,400 feet along the boundary between Seekonk and Attleboro to the point of beginning, shall constitute a water district and are hereby made a body corporate by the name of the Seekonk Water District, hereinafter called the district, for the purpose of supplying themselves with water for the extinguishment of fires and for domestic and other purposes, with power to establish fountains and hydrants, and to relocate and discontinue the same, to regulate the use of such water, and to fix and collect rates to be paid therefor, to assess and raise taxes as provided herein for the payment of such services, and to defray the necessary expenses of carrying on the business of said district, but subject to all general laws now or hereafter in force relating to such districts, except as otherwise provided herein. Said district shall have power to prosecute and defend all actions relating to its property and affairs.

Section 2. For the purposes aforesaid, the district, acting by and through its board of water commissioners hereinafter provided for, may contract with any municipality, ~~acting through its water department,~~ **or municipal water department whether said municipality or municipal water department is within or without the commonwealth** or with any water company, or with any other water district, for whatever water may be required, authority to furnish the same being hereby granted, and may enter into such other contracts as may be necessary for the purposes set forth in section one of this act and may take by eminent domain, under chapter seventy-nine or chapter eighty A of the General Laws, or acquire by lease, purchase or otherwise, and hold, the waters, or any portion thereof, of any pond, spring or stream, or of any ground sources of supply, by means of driven, artesian or other wells, within said town of Seekonk not already appropriated for the purposes of a public water supply, and the water rights connected with any such water resources; and for said purposes may take as aforesaid, or acquire by purchase or otherwise, and hold, all lands, rights of way and other easements necessary for collecting, storing, holding, purifying and preserving the purity of the water and for conveying the same to any part of said district; provided, that no source of water supply or lands necessary for preserving the quality of the water shall be so taken or used without first obtaining the advise and approval of the state department of public health, and that the location and arrangement of all dams, reservoirs, wells, pumping, purification and filtration plants and such other works as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this act shall be subject to the approval of said department. The district may construct and maintain on the lands acquired and held under this act proper dams, wells, springs, reservoirs, standpipes, tanks, pumping plants, buildings, fixtures and other structures, including also the establishment and maintenance of filter beds and purification works or systems, and may make excavations, procure and operate machinery and provide such other means and appliances, and do such other things as may be necessary for the establishment and maintenance of complete and effective water works; and for that purpose may construct pipe lines, wells and reservoirs and establish pumping works, and

may construct, lay, acquire and maintain aqueducts, conduits, pipes and other works under or over any land, water courses, railroads, railways and public or other ways, and along such ways, in said town, in such manner as not unnecessarily to obstruct the same; and for the purposes of constructing, laying, maintaining, operating and repairing such aqueducts, conduits, pipes and other works, and for all proper purposes of this act, the district may dig up or raise and embank any such lands, highways or other ways in such manner as to cause the least hindrance to public travel on such ways; provided, that the manner in which all things are done upon any such way shall be subject to the direction of the selectmen of said town. The district shall not enter upon, or construct or lay any aqueduct, conduit, pipe or other works within, the location of any railroad corporation except at such time and in such manner as it may agree upon with such corporation, or, in case of failure so to agree, as may be approved by the department of public utilities. Said district may enter upon any lands for the purpose of making surveys, test wells or pits and borings, and may take or otherwise acquire the right to occupy temporarily any lands necessary for the construction of any work or for any other purpose authorized by this act.

Section 3. Any person sustaining damages in his property by any taking under this act or any other thing done under authority thereof may recover such damages from the district under said chapter seventy-nine or said chapter eighty A; but the right to damages for the taking of any water, water right or water source, or for any injury thereto, shall not vest until water is actually withdrawn or diverted under authority of this act.

Section 4. For the purpose of paying the necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under this act, other than expenses of maintenance and operation, the district may borrow from time to time such sums as may be necessary, not exceeding, in the aggregate, three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars; and may issue bonds or notes therefor which shall bear on their face the words, Seekonk Water District Loan, Act of 1945. Each authorized issue shall constitute a separate loan, and such loans shall be payable in not more than thirty years from their dates. Indebtedness incurred under this act shall be subject to the provisions of chapter forty-four of the General Laws pertaining to such districts.

Section 5. The district shall, at the time of authorizing said loan or loans, provide for the payment thereof in accordance with section four of this act; and when a vote to that effect has been passed, a sum which, with the income derived from water rates, will be sufficient to pay the annual expense of operating its water works and the interest as it accrues on the bonds or notes issued as aforesaid by the district, and to make such payments on the principal as may be required under the provisions of this act, shall without further vote be assessed upon the district by the assessors of said town annually thereafter until the debt incurred by said loan or loans is extinguished.

Section 6. Any land taken or acquired under this act shall be managed, improved and controlled by the board of water commissioners hereinafter provided for, in such manner as they shall deem for the best interest of the district. All authority vested in said board by this section shall be subject to the provisions of section nine.

Section 7. Whenever a tax is duly voted by the district for the purpose of this act, the clerk shall send a certified copy of the vote to the assessors of said town, who shall assess the same on property within the district in the same manner in all respects in which town taxes are required by law to be assessed; provided, that no estate shall be subject to any

tax assessed on account of the system of water supply under this act if, in the judgement of the board of water commissioners hereinafter provided for, after a hearing due notice whereof shall have been given, such estate is so situated that it can receive no aid in the extinguishment of fire from the said system of water supply, or receive no benefit in fire insurance grading therefrom, or both, or if such estate is so situated that the buildings thereon, or the buildings that might be constructed thereon, could not be supplied in any ordinary or reasonable manner with water from the said system; but all other estates in the district shall be deemed to be benefited and shall be subject to such tax. A certified list of the estates exempt from taxation under the provisions of this section shall annually be sent by said board of water commissioners to said assessors, at the same time at which the clerk shall send a certified copy of the vote as aforesaid. The assessment shall be committed to the town collector, who shall collect said tax in the manner provided by law for the collection of town taxes, and shall deposit the proceeds thereof with the district treasurer for the use and benefit of the district. The district may collect interest on overdue taxes in the manner in which interest is authorized to be collected on town taxes.

Section 8. Any meeting of the voters of the territory included within the boundaries set forth in section one to be held prior to the acceptance of this act, and any meeting of the voters of the district to be held prior to the qualification of a majority of the water commissioners, shall be called, on petition of ten or more legal voters therein, by a warrant from the selectmen of said town, or from a justice of the peace, directed to one of the petitioners, requiring him to give notice of the meeting by posting copies of the warrant in two or more public places in the district seven days at least before the time of the meeting. Such justice of the peace, or one of the selectmen, shall preside at such meeting until a clerk is chosen and sworn, and the clerk shall preside until a moderator is chosen. At any meeting held hereunder prior to the acceptance of this act, after the choice of a moderator for the meeting the question of the acceptance of this act shall be submitted to the voters, and if it is accepted by a majority of the voters present and voting thereon it shall thereupon take effect, and the meeting may then proceed to act on the other articles in the warrant. After the qualification of a majority of the water commissioners, meetings of the district shall be called by warrant under their hands, unless some other method be provided by by-law or vote of the district.

Section 9. The district shall, after the acceptance of this act as aforesaid, elect by ballot, either at the same meeting at which this act shall have been accepted, or thereafter, at an annual meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose, three persons, inhabitants of and voters in said district, to hold office, one until the expiration of three years, one until the expiration of two years, and one until the expiration of one year, from the day of the next succeeding annual district meeting, to constitute a board of water commissioners; and at every annual district meeting following such next succeeding annual district meeting one such commissioner shall be elected by ballot for the term of three years. ~~The date of the next annual meeting shall be fixed by by-law or by vote of the board of water commissioners, but in no event shall it be later than fifteen months subsequent to the date on which the water commissioners were first elected.~~ ***The date and time and nomination procedure for each such election shall be the same as the annual town election. The date and time for each election shall be the same as the annual town election. The Seekonk Water District shall hold an annual meeting each year, the date and time to be determined by the board of water commissioners.*** All the authority granted to said district by this act, except sections four and five, and not otherwise specifically provided for, shall be vested in said board of water commissioners,

who shall be subject, however, to such instructions, rules and regulations as the district may by vote impose. ~~At the meeting at which said water commissioners are first elected and at each annual district meeting held thereafter, the district shall elect by ballot, each for a term of one year, a clerk and a treasurer of the district.~~ *At the meeting at which said water commissioners are first elected and at each annual district meeting held thereafter, the district shall elect by ballot for a term of one year a clerk of the district. At the meeting at which said water commissioners are first elected, the district shall elect by ballot for a term of one year a treasurer of the district, thereafter said treasurer shall be appointed annually by said water commissioners.* The treasurer shall not be a water commissioner, and shall give bond to the district in such an amount as may be approved by said water commissioners and with a surety company authorized to transact business in the commonwealth as surety. A majority of said water commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any vacancy occurring in said board from any cause may be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by said district at any legal meeting called for the purpose. No money shall be drawn from the treasury of the district on account of its water works except upon a written order of said water commissioners or a majority of them.

Section 9A. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 32B of the General Laws, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the amount of compensation paid to elected officials of the Seekonk Water District shall not make such officials eligible for medical, dental or life insurance coverage.

Section 10. Said board of water commissioners shall fix just and equitable prices and rates for the use of water and shall prescribe the time and manner of payment. The income of the water works shall be appropriated to defray all operating expenses, interest charges and payments on the principal as they shall accrue upon any bonds or notes issued under authority of this act. If there should be a net surplus remaining after providing for the aforesaid charges, it may be appropriated for such new construction as said water commissioners may recommend, and in case a surplus should remain after payment for such new construction the water rates shall be reduced proportionately. Said water commissioners shall annually, and as often as the district may require, render a report upon the condition of the works under their charge, and an account of their doings, including an account of receipts and expenditures.

Section 11. The district may adopt by-laws prescribing by whom and how meetings of the district may be called, notified and conducted; and, upon the application of ten or more legal voters in the district, meetings may also be called by warrant as provided in section eight. The district may also establish rules and regulations for the management of its water works, not inconsistent with this act or with any other provision of law, and may choose such other officers not provided for in this act as it may deem necessary or proper.

Section 12. Whoever willfully or wantonly corrupts, pollutes or diverts any water obtained or supplied under this act, or willfully or wantonly injures any reservoir, well, standpipe, aqueduct, pipe or other property owned or used by the district for any of the purposes of this act, shall forfeit and pay to the district three times the amount of damages assessed therefor, to be recovered in an action of tort, and upon conviction of any of the above willful or wanton acts shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars or by imprisonment in jail for not more that one year, or both.

Section 13. Upon a petition in writing addressed to said board of water commissioners requesting that certain real estate, accurately described therein, located in said town and abutting on said district and not otherwise served by a public water supply be included within the limits thereof, and signed by the owners of such real estate, or a major portion of such real estate, said water commissioners shall cause a duly warned meeting of the district to be called, at which meeting the voters may vote on the question of including said real estate within the district. If a majority of the voters present and voting thereon vote in the affirmative the district clerk shall within ten days file with the town clerk of said town and with the state secretary an attested copy of said petition and vote; and thereupon said real estate shall become and be part of the district and shall be holden under this act in the same manner and to the same extent as the real estate described in section one.

Section 14. This act shall take full effect upon its acceptance by a majority vote of the voters of the territory included within said district by section one of this act present and voting thereon by the use of a check list at a district meeting called, in accordance with the provisions of section eight, within four years after its passage, but not otherwise.

Approved June 1, 1945.

CHAPTER 38

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN AGREEMENTS TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN WATER SUPPLY

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 381 of the acts of 1945 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 4, the words “, acting through its water department,” and inserting in place thereof the words:- or municipal water department whether said municipality or municipal water department is within or without the commonwealth.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 7, 1978

Chapter 299

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS OF THE SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 9 of chapter 381 of the acts of 1945 is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following three sentences:- The date and time and nomination procedure for each such election shall be the same as the annual town election. The date and time for each election shall be the same as the annual town election. The Seekonk Water District shall hold an annual meeting each year, the date and time to be determined by the board of water commissioners.

Approved November 4, 1991

Chapter 254

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 9 of chapter 381 of the acts of 1945, as amended by chapter 299 of the acts of 1991, is hereby further amended by striking out the sixth sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences:- At the meeting at which said water commissioners are first elected and at each annual district meeting held thereafter, the district shall elect by ballot for a term of one year a clerk of the district. At the meeting at which said water commissioners are first elected, the district shall elect by ballot for a term of one year a treasurer of the district, thereafter said treasurer shall be appointed annually by said water commissioners.

Approved November 22, 1995

Chapter 182

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SEEKONK WATER DISTRICT

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 381 of the acts of 1945 is hereby amended by inserting after section 9 the following section:--

Section 9A. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 32B of the General Laws, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the amount of compensation paid to elected officials of the Seekonk Water District shall not make such officials eligible for medical, dental or life insurance coverage.

Approved August 6, 2000