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Chapter 60

Sewers and Sanitary Facilities

§ 60-1. Definitions.

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this chapter shall be as follows:

- A. "BOD" (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20 degrees c. Expressed in milligrams per liter.
- B. "Building Drain" shall mean that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which received the discharge from soil waste, and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, the building drain terminating five (5) feet outside the inner face of the building wall.
- C. "Building Sewer" shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.
- D. "Combined Sewer" shall mean a sewer receiving both surface runoff and sewage.
- E. "Garbage" shall mean solid wastes from the domestic and commercial preparation, cooking and dispensing of food and from the handling, storage, and sale of produce.
- F. "Industrial Wastes" shall mean the liquid wastes from industrial manufacturing processes, trade, or business as distinct from sanitary sewage.
- G. "May" is a permissive term.
- H. "Natural Outlet" shall mean any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lakes, or other body of surface of groundwater.
- I. "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, company, association, partnership, society, corporation, church, school, or group.
- J. "PH" shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.
- K. "Properly Shredded Garbage" shall mean the wastes from the preparation, cooking and dispensing of foods that have been shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than one-half (1/2) inch in any dimension.
- L. "Public Sewer" shall mean a sewer which is controlled by public authority.

- M. "Sanitary Sewer" shall mean a sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface and groundwater are not intentionally admitted.
- N. "Sewage" shall mean a combination of the water carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface and storm waters as may be unintentionally admitted.
- O. "Sewage Treatment Plant" shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating sewage.
- P. "Sewage Works" shall mean all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating and disposing of sewage.
- Q. "Sewer" shall mean a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.
- R. "Shall" is a mandatory term.
- S. "Slug" shall mean any discharge of water, sewage, or industrial waste which in concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow exceeds for any period of duration longer than fifteen (15) minutes more than five (5) times the average twenty-four (24) hour concentration or flows during the normal operation.
- T. "Storm Drain" (or "storm sewer") shall mean a sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage, but excludes sewage and industrial wastes, other than unpolluted cooling water.
- U. "Superintendent" shall mean the superintendent of sewage works of the Town or his authorized deputy, agent or representative.
- V. "Suspended Solids" shall mean solids that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids, and which are removable by laboratory filtering.
- W. Wastewater shall mean the spent water of a community. From the standpoint of source, it may be a combination of the liquid and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants and institutions, together with any groundwater, surface water and stormwater that may be present.
- X. Wastewater facilities shall mean an arrangement of devices and structures for treating wastewater, industrial wastes and sludge. Sometimes used as synonymous with "waste treatment plant" or "water pollution control plant."
- Y. "Watercourse" shall mean a channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.
- Z. "Town" shall mean the president and commissioners of Church Hill or Town of Church

Hill, a municipal corporation of the State of Maryland, and/or its duly authorized officers or agents.

§ 60-2. Use of Public Sewers Required.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, deposit, or permit to be placed or deposited in any unsanitary manner on public or private property within the Town of Church Hill, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said Town, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectionable waste.

B. It shall be unlawful to discharge to any natural outlet within the Town of Church Hill, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said Town any sewage or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this chapter or any amendments thereto.

C. It shall be unlawful to construct, keep, or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of wastewater or sewage.

D. The owner(s) of all houses, buildings, or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation, or other purposes situated within the Town shall at his/their expense connect such facilities directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Each mobile home and/or trailer unit used for residential or commercial purposes, and having domestic water and/or sanitary facilities therein, shall be considered a separate and independent building, and as such shall have its own separate and independent building drain and building sewer.

§ 60-3. Building Sewers and Connections.

A. No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenances thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the Queen Anne's County Plumbing Board and the Town.

B. There shall be two (2) classes of building sewer permits: (a) for residential and commercial service; and (b) for service to establishments producing industrial wastes. In either case, the owner or his agents shall make application on a form furnished by the Queen Anne's County Plumbing Board. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the Queen Anne's County Plumbing Board.

C. All costs and expenses incident to the installation and connection of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the Town from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the building sewer.

D. 1. A separate or independent building sewer shall be provided to the primary structure on every lot/property. Where accessory structures exist on the lot and sanitary facilities are required/allowed to be connected to the accessory structure as determined by the Town.

Connection to the Town sewer shall be provided by extending the connection from the primary structure or via a separate connection to the Town sewer as approved by the Town. Indirect connections as discussed below may be approved by the Town, only when appropriate easements and assurances have been provided to allow the continual maintenance of the connection by the property owner.

2. (a) In the event that a lot/property does not abut upon a street, alley, or public right of way in which there is presently located a public sanitary sewer of the Town, and sanitary facilities are required/allowed to be connected to a use on the lot/property, an indirect connection may be permitted at the sole discretion of the Town, and only when appropriate easements and assurances have been provided to allow the continual maintenance of the connection by the property owner. Where, in the discretion of the Town Commissioners, such connection does not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare. For the purpose of this section, "indirect connection" shall mean any connection to the public sanitary sewer of the Town in which the property in question connects to a public sanitary sewer of the Town located in a street, alley or right of way that does not directly abut the property in question.

(b) Any property owner connecting to the public sanitary sewer of the Town via an indirect connection shall be required to (i) enter into a written declaration of covenants with the Town addressing the rights, liabilities, obligations and duties of the property owner and the Town, which shall be recorded in the land records of Queen Anne's County, Maryland; (ii) dedicate the temporary connection to the Town at such time as the temporary connection is complete to the Town's satisfaction; and (iii) abandon the indirect connection and connect directly to the public sanitary sewer of the Town at the property owner's expense at such time as the public sanitary sewer of the Town shall abut the property in question.

(c) The Town does not and will not assume any obligation or responsibility for damage caused by or resulting from any indirect connection established pursuant to this subsection.

E. Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and testing by the Town, to meet all requirements of this chapter, as well as the Maryland State Plumbing Regulations, and the Queen Anne's County Plumbing Regulations.

F. The size, slope, alignment, materials of construction of a building sewer, and the methods to be used in excavating, placing of the pipe, jointing, testing, and back-filling the trench, shall all conform to the requirements or other applicable rules and regulations of the Town, as well as the Maryland State Plumbing Regulations, and the Queen Anne's County Plumbing Regulations. A clean out meeting the requirements of the Maryland Plumbing Code shall be provided by the property owner at the point of connection of his building sewer to the public sewer. In the absence of code provisions, rules or regulations thereof, the materials and procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the A.S.T.M. and W.P.C.F. Manual of Practice No. 9 shall apply.

G. Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. In all buildings in which any building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the public sewer, sanitary sewage carried by such building drain shall be lifted by approved means and discharged to the building sewer, in accordance with the Maryland State Plumbing Regulations, and the Queen Anne's County Plumbing Regulations.

H. No person shall make connection of roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, area-way drains, or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.

I. The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements or all applicable rules and regulations of the Town of Church Hill, the Queen Anne's County Plumbing Board and the procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the A.S.T.M. and the W.P.C.F. as set forth in Manual of Practice No. 9. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight and verified by proper testing. House and building service connections shall comply with ASTM 3034, SDR 35 PVC; ASTM f789; T-1 PVC; AWWA C151 D.I.P. or ASTM A-746 gravity sewer pipe. If existing sewer is C.I.P. or D.I.P. and is older than proposed house connection pipe, and proposed house connection is D.I.P., consideration should be given to providing flanged, insulated connection to existing sewer pipe and bonded joints and cathodic protection for the proposed house connection. All connections of building sewer into the public sewer shall be performed by a Registered Master Plumber, licensed by the Maryland State Board of Commissioners of Practical Plumbing Code as adopted by the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the Town before installation.

J. The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify the Town when the building sewer is ready from inspection and connection to the public sewer. The connection shall be made under the supervision of the Town or its representatives.

K. All excavations for building sewer installation shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard or injury. Street, sidewalks, parkways; and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in manner satisfactory to the Town.

L. Where groundwater is encountered at the point of connection to the public sewer, the excavation shall be pumped dry before the plug is removed from the public sewer. Public sewer connections shall not be used to drain ditches.

M. Combined sewers will not be permitted under any circumstances in the Town.

§ 60-4. Use of Public Sewers.

A. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, sub-surface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer.

B. Stormwater and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers as are specifically designated as storm sewers, or to a natural outlet approved by the Town. Industrial cooling water or unpolluted process waters may be discharged, on approval of the Town, to a storm sewer, or natural outlet.

C. No persons shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewers:

1. Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas.

2. Any waters or wastes containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids, or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant, including, but not limited to, cyanides in excess of two (2) mg/1 as CN in the wastes as discharged to the public sewer.

3. Any waters or wastes having a ph lower than 5.5 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard structures, equipment, and personnel of the sewage works.

4. Solid or viscous substances in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the proper operation of the sewage treatment works such as, but not limited to, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal glass, rags, feathers, tar plastics, wood, underground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, seafood waste, entrails and paper dishes, cups, milk containers, either whole or ground by garbage grinders.

D. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged the following described substances, materials, waters, or wastes if it appears likely in the opinion of the Town that such wastes can harm either the sewers, sewage treatment plant or process, or equipment, have an adverse effect on the receiving stream or can otherwise endanger life, limb, public or private property, or constitute a nuisance. In forming its opinion as to the acceptability of these wastes, the Town will give consideration to such factors as the quantities of subject wastes in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, materials of construction of the sewers, nature of the sewage treatment process, capacity of the sewage treatment plant, degree of treatability of wastes in the sewage treatment plant, and other pertinent factors. The substances prohibited are:

1. Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than one hundred fifty (150) degrees F (65 degrees C).

2. Any water or waste containing fats, wax grease, or oils whether emulsified or not, in excess of one hundred (100) mg/1 or containing substances which may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between thirty-two (32) and one hundred fifty (150) degrees F (0 and 65 degrees C).

3. Any garbage that has not been properly shredded. Garbage grinders may be connected to sanitary sewers from homes, hotels, institutions, restaurants, hospitals, catering establishments or similar places where garbage originates from the preparation of food in kitchens for the purpose of consumption on the premises, or when served by caterers. The installation and operation of any garbage grinder equipped with a motor of three-fourths (3/4) horsepower (0.76 metric) or greater shall be subject to the review and approval of the Town.

4. Any waters or wastes containing strong acid, iron pickling wastes, or concentrated plating solutions whether neutralized or not.

5. Any waters or wastes containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc and similar objectionable or toxic substances, or wastes exerting an excessive chlorine requirements, to such degree that any such material received in the composite sewage at the sewage treatment works exceeds the limits established by the Town for such materials.

6. Any waters or wastes containing phenols or other taste or odor producing substances, in such concentrations exceeding limits which may be established by the Town as necessary, after treatment of the composite sewage, to meet the requirements of the state, federal, or other public agencies of jurisdiction for such discharge to the receiving waters.

7. Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the Town in compliance with applicable state or federal regulations.

8. Any water or wastes having a ph in excess of 9.5 or less than 6.

9. Materials which exert or cause:

(a) Unusual concentrations of inert suspended solids (such as, but nor limited to, fullers earth, lime slurries, or lime residues) or of dissolved solids (such as, but not limited to, sodium chloride and sodium sulfate).

(b) Excessive discoloration (such as, but not limited to, dye wastes and vegetables tanning solutions).

(c) Unusual BOD, chemical oxygen demand, or chlorine requirements in such quantities as to constitute a significant loan on the sewage treatment works.

(d) Unusual volume of flow or concentration of wastes constituting "slugs", as defined herein.

10. Waters or wastes containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the sewage treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the sewage treatment plant effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.

11. Any water or wastes which, by interaction with other water or wastes in the public sewer system, release obnoxious gases, form suspended solids which interfere with the collection system, or create a condition deleterious to structures and treatment processes.

E. If any waters or wastes are discharged, or are proposed to be discharged to the public sewers, which waters contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in subsection D. Of this section, and which, in the judgment of the Town, may have a deleterious effect upon the sewage works, processes, equipment, or receiving waters, or which otherwise create a hazard to life or constitute a public nuisance, the Town may:

1. Reject the wastes:

2. Require pretreatment to an acceptable condition of discharge to the public sewers.

3. Require control over the quantities and rates of discharge, and/or

4. Require payment to cover the added cost of handling and treating the wastes not covered by existing taxes or sewer charges under the provisions of Section 60-7 of this Chapter.

F. If the Town permits the pretreatment or equalization of waste flows, the design and installation of the plants and equipment shall be subject to the review and approval of the Town, and subject to the requirements of all applicable codes, ordinances, and laws.

G. 1. Grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be provided when, in the opinion of the Town, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing grease in excessive amounts, or any flammable wastes, sand, or other harmful ingredients; except that such interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by the Town, and shall be located as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection.

2. In the maintaining of these interceptors the owner(s) shall be responsible for the proper removal and disposal by appropriate means of the captured material and shall maintain records of the dates and means of disposal, which are subject to review by the Town. Any removal and hauling of the collected materials not performed by the owner's personnel must be performed by approved waste disposal firms and materials disposed of in an approved manner and location

H. Where preliminary treatment or flow equalizing facilities are provided for any waters or wastes, they shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation by the owner at his expense.

I. The Town may require a user of sewer services to provide information needed to determine compliance with this section. These requirements may include:

1. Wastewater discharge peak rate and volume over a specified time period.
2. Chemical analysis of wastewaters.
3. Information on raw materials, processes and products affecting wastewater volume and quality.
4. Quantity and disposition of specific liquid, sludge, oil, solvent, or other materials important to sewer use control.
5. A plot plan of sewers of the user's property showing sewer and pretreatment facility location.
6. Details of wastewater pretreatment facilities.
7. Details of systems to prevent and control the losses of materials through spills to the public sewer.

J. When required by the Town, the owner of any property serviced by a building sewer carrying industrial wastes shall install a suitable control structure together with such necessary meters and other appurtenances in the building sewer or control structure, to facilitate observation, sampling, and measurement of the wastes. Such structure, when required, shall be accessibly and safely located, and shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the Town. The structure shall be installed by the owner at his expense, and shall be maintained by him so as to be safe and accessible at all times.

K. All measurements, tests, and analyses of the characteristics of waters and wastes to which reference is made in this chapter shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" published by the American Public Health Association, and shall be determined at the control structure provided, or upon suitable samples taken at said control structures. In the event that no special structure has been required, the control structure shall be considered to be the nearest downstream manhole in the public sewer to the point at which the building sewer is connected. Sampling shall be carried out by customarily accepted methods to reflect the effect of constituents upon the sewage works and to determine the existence of hazards to life, limb and property. The particular analyses involved will determine whether a twenty-four (24) hour composite of all outfalls is appropriate or whether a grab sample or samples should be taken. Normally, but not always, BOD and suspended solids analyses are obtained from 24-hour composites of all outfalls whereas ph is determined from periodic grab samples).

L. No statement contained in this section shall be construed as preventing any special agreement or arrangement between the Town and any industrial concern whereby an industrial waste of unusual strength or character may be accepted by the Town for treatment, subject or payment therefore, by the industrial concern.

§ 60-5. Protection from Damage.

No unauthorized person shall maliciously, willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface, or tamper with any structure, appurtenances or equipment which is a part of the sewage works. Any person violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest under charge of disorderly conduct, or for violations of any of the laws of the State of Maryland.

§ 60-6. Powers and Authority of Inspectors.

A. The Town and other duly authorized employees, or representatives of the Town bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

B. The superintendent, wastewater department, Town of Church Hill, or other duly authorized employees are authorized to obtain information concerning industrial processes which have a direct bearing on the kind and source of discharge to the wastewater collection system. The industry may withhold information considered confidential. The industry must establish that the revelation to the public of the information in question might result in an advantage to competitors.

C. While performing the necessary work on private properties referred to in Subsection A. above, the Town's employees or representatives shall, to the greatest extent practicable, observe all safety rules applicable to the premises established by the company.

D. Duly authorized employees or representatives of the Town bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all private properties through which the Town holds a duly negotiated easement for the purposes of, but not limited to, inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, repair, and maintenance of any portion of the sewage works lying within said easement. All entry and subsequent work, if any, on said easement shall be done in full accordance with the terms of the duly negotiated easement pertaining to the private property involved.

§ 60-7. Charges and Fees.

A. The Town is authorized to require payment of the connection fee established in the Town fee schedule prior to connecting to the Town sewer mains as set forth in Section 60-2.D.

B. Notwithstanding other provisions in this Chapter to the contrary, all connection charges or fees shall be waived as to all persons who connect to the sewer mains within one hundred twenty (120) days from notification by the Town that the mains are ready for operation. Subsequent to the termination of the one hundred twenty (120) days waiver period, all persons who connect to sewer main shall pay, in addition to all other charges stated in this chapter, a connection charge as established in the Town fee schedule.

C. Fees for collecting and testing of water and wastewater samples shall be as established, from time to time, by the Commissioners of the Town of Church Hill.

D. An annual sewer service charge as set by Town by ordinance shall be charged to each building sewer, said charge to be due and payable December 31 of each year and overdue as of January 1 of each year, said charges to be prorated the first year from the date of connection. The Town may bill the property owners on a monthly, quarterly or any other basis as they may deem fitting and proper.

E. The Town reserves the right to increase or decrease the rates and charges herein set forth by further ordinance, including but not limited to the adoption of the Annual Budget Ordinance, and to establish different classification as to rates for residential, commercial or industrial use.

F. All rates and/or charges referred to in this Chapter shall constitute a lien on the real estate served and shall be collectible in the same manner as Town taxes or by suit at law.

§ 60-8. Penalties.

A. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter, except Section 60-5, shall be served by the Town with written notice stating the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall, within the period of time stated in such notice, permanently cease and correct all violations. Any person, who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in the notice served pursuant to subsection a., shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be a fine in the amount not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each violation. Each day in which any such violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offense.

B. Any person who violates Section 60-5 of this Chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable as set forth in Section 8-1 of this code.

C. Any person violating any of the provisions of this Chapter shall become liable to the Town for the payment of any expense, loss or damage incurred by the Town by reason of such violation.

Originally adopted on May 16, 2011 as Ordinance No. 141-11. The date of any amendment will appear below the amended paragraph in brackets ([]).