



Office of the Town Manager

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GRINDER PUMP APPEALS

Property owners have the right to contest any charges assessed by the Town of Chelmsford for the repair or replacement of a grinder pump or grinder pump system. The three-level review process for contesting such charges is as follows:

First, a property owner may file a written request for relief with the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works Sewer Division, together with copies of any documentation or information the property owner wishes to submit in support thereof. The Superintendent shall review the request and supporting materials and respond in writing within thirty (30) days.

If a property owner remains aggrieved by the Superintendent's response to a request for relief, he or she may appeal that response in writing to the Director of the Department of Public Works within fourteen (14) days. Upon receipt of that appeal, the Director shall schedule a grinder pump hearing to be held within twenty-one (21) days. The property owner may attend that hearing (with or without counsel), call witnesses, question any Town witnesses, and offer any other evidence regarding the request for relief. The Director shall issue a decision in writing on the appeal within thirty (30) days after the close of the grinder pump hearing,

Finally, if a property owner remains aggrieved by the Director's decision on appeal, he or she may submit a further appeal in writing to the Town Manager within fourteen (14) days. The Town Manager shall review the proceedings and decision below and, within (30) days, issue a decision in writing.

Regardless of whether a property owner pursues the three-level review process described above, he or she also has a right to contest a sewer assessment by filing an application for an abatement on an approved form with the Chelmsford Board of Assessors. G.L. c. 59, § 59. For deadlines for filing such applications, contact the Chief Assessor at (978) 250-5220.

Finally, if the Board of Assessors denies an application for an abatement of a sewer assessment, either in whole or in part, an applicant may appeal to the Appellate Tax Board upon the same terms and conditions as a person aggrieved by a refusal of the Assessors to abate a tax. G.L. c. 83, § 16E. For information on filing an appeal with the Appellate Tax Board, see <https://www.mass.gov/filing-an-appeal-with-the-appellate-tax-board>.

Dated: October 7, 2019