

Town of Grafton

Grinder Pump Systems Policy

It is intended that this document shall represent the Grinder Pump Systems Policy of the Town of Grafton Board of Sewer Commissioners (“Board”), regarding Grinder Pump Systems which includes all force main pipes, appurtenances and controls (“Grinder Pumps”) connected by a force main into the public sewer system of the Board.

Grinder Pumps installed shall follow all applicable Articles and Sections the Town of Grafton’s Sewer Use Ordinance, not limited to those sections as denoted in the policy.

The use of Grinder Pumps through this policy is allowed until such time that public gravity sewer becomes available at which time the Grinder Pumps will be abandoned and the building will be tied to Town sewer, within two years of Town Sewers becoming available for use. (Sewer Use Ordinance, Article II, Section 3.) The Grinder Pumps, associated force main, appurtenances and controls installed, outside any public right-of-way, shall be owned and maintained by the property owner.

1. **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- a. The Board’s policy and practice has discouraged the use of Grinder Pumps. The preferred method for discharge of sewage from an individual building or group of buildings to the Town’s sewer system is by gravity flow. The use of Grinder Pumps shall be considered after alternatives for gravity service connections has been thoroughly considered and, in the opinion of the Board, cannot reasonably discharge to the Town’s sewer system by gravity flow may discharge to the Town’s sewer system by means of Grinder Pumps, upon approval of said Grinder Pumps by the Board.
- b. Grinder pumps will be permitted only in those circumstances when gravity sewer service would be impractical, unreasonably expensive, environmentally destructive or otherwise not feasible. Following shall be some considerations for approval of Grinder Pumps, but is not limited to:
 - i. Topography considerations create difficulties and significant additional expenditures.
 - ii. Groundwater conditions present difficulties in construction and maintenance.
 - iii. Significant rock formation present impractical application of standard construction methods.
- c. Permission by the Board to install Grinder Pumps does not eliminate the need to obtain any applicable permits from other Town Departments or the State.
- d. The Board shall permit the use of Grinder Pumps on an individual basis, based upon the presence and significance of the factors set forth in Sections “a & b” above.
- e. The permission to allow the use of the Grinder Pumps shall be provided, in writing, issued by the Chairman of the Board or his/her designated agent.
- f. Each Owner/Applicant requesting permission the use of Grinder Pumps for a property shall provide such information as the Board may request, including the following but not limited to:

Town of Grafton

Grinder Pump Systems Policy

- i. Basis for Grinder Pumps based upon factors set forth in Section “a & b” above.
 - ii. Drawings of proposed Grinder Pumps, plans and profiles of location.
 - iii. Shop drawings with pump curve, design criteria, material specifications, wiring diagram and warranty information.
- g. Each Owner/Applicant shall apply for a permit as stated in Article III, Section 2 of the Sewer Use Ordinance.
- h. All installations of Grinder Pumps shall be inspected and approved by the Board or its designee prior to backfilling. A Permanently attached “Maintenance Label” shall be a condition of approval. Such label shall state:

“Maintenance costs for the Grinder Pumps are the Homeowner’s responsibility.”

- i. The label shall be provided by the Owner/Applicant.
 - j. Sewer warning tape shall be required with installations of all Grinder Pumps to denote force main location. The non-magnetic tape shall be a minimum of 6” in width, green in color and shall be placed 1 foot above the pipe. Installation of the sewer warning tape shall be a subsidiary obligation of the contractor at no cost to the Town of Grafton.
 - k. The Homeowner and Town shall each be furnished with a complete set of instructions, technical bulletins, prints, drawings and/or any other information required for the proper operation, maintenance and repair of the Grinder Pumps.
 - l. All Grinder Pumps installed shall be in full compliance with The Sewer Use Ordinance Article III, Sections 1 thru 22 and Article IV, Section 13.

2. **OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE**

- a. The Grinder Pumps, associated force main, appurtenances and controls installed, outside any public right-of-way, shall be owned and maintained by the property owner.
- b. Each property owner shall use a qualified contractor experienced in the maintenance and replacement of all elements of the Grinder Pump.
- c. All warranties for Grinder Pumps shall be enforced by the property owner against the applicable manufacturer or appropriate agent.

3. **CONSUMER EDUCATION**

a. General Information

A Grinder Pump is part of a larger low-pressure wastewater disposal sewer system. The key element in this system is the grinder pump station. The station collects all wastewater from your property. The solids in the sewage are then ground into smaller pieces by the grinder pump(s) within the station, suitable for pumping to the public sewer system. The grinder pump(s) generate sufficient pressure to pump the slurry

Town of Grafton

Grinder Pump Systems Policy

created from the property to the Town's Sewer System. With proper care and by following a few simple guidelines, the station will give many years of dependable service. The station is designed to handle routine, domestic and light industrial sewage. solid waste materials should be thrown in the trash. A preventive maintenance schedule should be developed to further increase the longevity of the station.

b. Recommended Preventive Maintenance

Annually:

- i. Property owner should visually inspect the power cables, control harnesses and lifting cable. Make sure they are properly hung on the adapter hooks and free from defects.
- ii. Property owner should check operation of the visual alarm lamp and audible siren in the alarm box.
- iii. Property owner should make sure alarm box is free from any moisture.
- iv. After inspection, the property owner should make certain that the alarm box cover and system cover are secure and locked.

c. If Alarm Sounds:

- i. The responsible party should contact the grinder pump service representative and have them inspect the system.

d. *Various items SHOULD NOT BE introduced into any sewer system either directly or through a drain or waste disposal, including but not limited to:*

- i. *Glass, metal or plastic*
- ii. *Diapers, sanitary napkins or tampons*
- iii. *Socks, rags or clothes*
- iv. *Explosives or flammable material*
- v. *Lubricating oils or grease*
- vi. *Strong chemicals or gasoline*

e. Power Failure

The grinder pump station cannot dispose of wastewater or provide an alarm signal without electrical power. If an electrical outage occurs, keep water usage to a minimum. The station has reserve capacity available to help avoid alarm or high-level occurrences during power outages.