



**CITY OF DOVER**

## DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH  
Meeting Date: **Monday, October 18, 2010**  
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

**Members Present:** Ed Spuler, Vice-Chair Jay Stephens, Mark Moeller, Chair Otis Perry,

**Alternate Members Present:** Ted Mortner

**Members Absent:** Mike Earley, Marty Coyle

**Staff Present:** Bill Boulanger, Superintendent of Public Works and Utilities, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm

### 2. Election of Officer

### 3. Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** Moeller made the motion to remove item two, election of officer, Spuler seconded.

**Vote:** U/A

### 4. Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2010

**Motion:** Moeller made the motion to approve the minutes, Stephens seconded.

**Vote:** U/A

### 5. User's Forum - None

### 6. Abatement Requests

#### A. River Valley Development Corp.

Mike Patenaude, President of River Valley Development Corp., stated that he is moving into the home at 21 Falcon Drive. They have a 1500 gallon septic tank with a pump that only takes the gray water. He has to pump it once a year. The investment fee does not seem fair when all of the solids are staying back and only the gray water is going to the City.

Perry asked how much of an abatement he is requesting.

Patenaude stated only 75% of the investment fee which is

Perry stated the bulk of what is handled at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is the water. What is the impact on the cost of running the sewer treatment plant on the solids?

Boulanger stated that they have to dewater the sludge, which is part of the solids, dry them and compost. There are a number of private force mains in residential neighborhoods. The City does credit them when they come to the plant but they have to pay the trucking but not the tipping fee because they are paying the sewer rate.

Stephens stated the investment fee is more than just the cost of the plant. It's the cost to go towards the collection system and everything else. The DUC has never granted an abatement for this which could change at any time but at this point I don't think there is any way to justify the abatement at this



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time. It ends up at the WWTP so all of those costs are normal. The collection system is just as if anyone else connected to it. He doesn't see that there is any less impact just because the solids are not in it.

Moeller asked Boulanger what his recommendation would be.

Boulanger stated his recommendation would be to not grant it based on the fact that the City would still have to handle it one way or another.

**Motion:** Stephens made the motion to deny the abatement request, Moeller seconded.

Perry stated that he agrees; the investment fees are to support the infrastructure and the infrastructure is the same size whether it's water with solids in it or just water. The investment fee, as is everything else is based on the water flow.

**Vote:** U/A

### 7. Reports

#### A. Abatement Review Team Report

The report was discussed and clarified by Staff.

Stephens asked about number 5. He stated that it was a high bill; it talks about the average usage of the home and leaves an amount for credit.

Boulanger stated that if he sees a high bill and they tell him it was for a pool but they didn't apply for a pool credit, he generally just tries to find their average bill to find out what their pool credit could be.

Stephens stated that a pool credit should never be based on the average bill.

**Motion:** Stephens made the motion to accept abatements 1, 2, 3,4,6,7 and table 5, Moeller seconded.

**Vote:** U/A

#### B. Utilities Report

The report was discussed and clarified by Staff.

**Motion:** Stephens made the motion to accept the Utilities Report, Moeller seconded.

**Vote:** U/A

#### C. Finance Report – Not Available

### 8. New Business

#### A. Financial Responsibility



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Perry stated that Gary Green had said that the City Council had voted to remove the oversight of the finances of the sewer and water funds from the DUC. When they redefined the activities of the board, they left that out. He had asked Director Steele to look into it.

Boulanger stated that Steele was going to speak to City Attorney Allan Krans. Unfortunately, the City Attorney is out of town for the week.

Stephens stated that the requirements for the EPA were very specific about enabling a Utility Commission for the sewer side and they specifically required, in their wording in an approved ordinance, that you had to have a sewer commission to make recommendations. They didn't have the authority to raise the rates but they had to exist to make the recommendations to the Council.

Perry stated that that was his recollection as well. He had suggested to Steele that it may be in their contract with the EPA for the funding for the sewage treatment plant.

Discussion ensued regarding the financial responsibilities.

### **B. Stormwater Report**

Stephens gave an overview of the October 11, 2010 Stormwater Committee meeting.

## **9. Old Business**

### **A. New Meter Replacement**

Boulanger stated that he had e-mailed multiple vendors and had asked them to submit pricing for new meters. He went over the handouts (in file).

Boulanger stated that he wanted to have the meter data go directly to City Hall and bypass the meter reader.

Perry asked how it would go directly to City Hall.

Boulanger gave demonstration on board. One method is to have a number of homes, with receivers attached to each one, which act like repeaters. The readings would be read from City Hall. The second method is to put a reader on a cell phone tower/tall building. That signal would be sent to City Hall. This method is a little more costly because the City would have to have contractor go up the tower to install the reader. The repeater system uses just City manpower.

Moeller asked what his preference was.

Boulanger stated the repeater systems is the one he prefers. He continued to explain the difference between the two systems.

Moeller stated would like to see demo.

Boulanger stated that is something he can arrange to get the vendor to give a demo.



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### **B. Willand Pond Update**

Boulanger passed out a Willand Pond resolution from City Council.

### **10. Areas of Concern - None**

### **11. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Moeller made the motion to adjourn at 7:25pm, Mortner seconded.

**Vote:** U/A