



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, February 14, 2011**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Chair Otis Perry, Vice Chair Jay Stephens, Ed Spuler, Marty Coyle, Dana Leggett

Alternate Member Present: Ted Mortner

Members Absent: Mike Earley, Mark Moeller

Staff Present: Doug Steele, Director of Community Services, Bill Boulanger, Superintendent of Public Works and Utilities, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Perry stated that item 8A, Stormwater Utilities, was turned down at City Council. It is not something that is going to come before the DUC.

3. Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2011

Motion: Coyle made the motion to approve the minutes, Spuler seconded.

Vote: U/A

4. User's Forum - None

5. Abatement Requests

A. 75 Emerald Lane

Mahesh Unnikrishnan, applicant, stated that he filed an abatement for his water/sewer bill for the third quarter of 2010. The amount of the bill was \$1,116.00. When he filed the abatement, City staff came to his house to check for leaks; they did not find any. Staff told him that it could be his in-ground irrigation system. Immediately, after staff left, he called his irrigation company but was told that they would not be able to check for any leaks until spring. He's looking for a sewer abatement since the leak may be within his irrigation system.

Perry stated that he didn't explain why the abatement is appropriate. The circumstances were explained but not the abatement.

Applicant stated that his average usage is 33 units per quarter and his average bill is \$250-\$300. He's been living at the residence since July 2009. For the third quarter of 2010, his bill was \$1,069. There is no leak from a faucet or toilet. He is unsure if it is the irrigation system and he won't be able to find out until spring.

Perry asked if he turned the system off.

Applicant stated that the irrigation company turned the system off in the fall. He stated that he checked the meter the first week of October. He's been watching the meter and found nothing unusual.

Boulanger stated that staff recommended denying the abatement due to the fact that a memo meter should have been installed. The City has a procedure for residents to see a reduction on their water/sewer bill if they install a memo meter on their irrigation system. When residents don't do that,



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they have a risk of this kind of a bill because there's no "deduct" meter to see what the irrigation system put out.

Perry asked the applicant if he currently pays the both the water and sewer bill for what goes through the irrigation system. You're not asking the DUC for an abatement of what already goes through the irrigation system but for the malfunction.

Applicant stated that since the water from the irrigation system didn't enter the sewer, that's the amount he's abating.

Coyle asked if the applicant purchased the house new.

The applicant stated that he purchased it new from the builder.

Coyle asked if it was standard for the memo meter to be installed by the builder.

Boulanger stated that it depends on the builder. It's an extra cost for them to add the memo meters so sometimes they don't. They leave it up to the homeowner. If the homeowner purchased a home without an established lawn, he's probably using the irrigation system a little each day to keep it wet; unaware of the memo meter policy until receiving the large bill.

Motion: Coyle stated that he would make a motion to grant an abatement for the sewer but not the water. There was no second.

Leggett stated she would make a motion to grant the sewer portion but use the 45 usage which is what the maximum usage was.

Perry stated that they use the water average to set the sewer bill. It has not been a practice to abate water bills.

Motion: Leggett stated that she would abate the sewer portion but not at the value that the applicant has here. He's saying that it's a difference of 91 units because he's using 33 as an average. She would use 45 units and abate 79 units. Stephens seconded.

Spuler asked if there was any kind of limit of time for when he can come back for an abatement.

Stephens stated there is a limit.

Perry stated you have to apply within 180 days of the original bill.

Perry stated that the motion is to grant the abatement for the sewer portion of the bill based on the usage of 79 units.

Perry stated abating 79 units at the rate of \$5.04 per unit.

Vote: U/A



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6. Reports

A. Abatement Review Team Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

B. Utilities Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

C. Finance Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

Motion: Stephens made the motion to approve the reports, Coyle seconded.

Vote: U/A

7. New Business

A. Badger Meter Presentation

Boulanger stated that Badger Meter is the City of Dovers current supplier. We also use their software for our readings. He has been speaking to the Board about moving up in scale regarding how we want to read our meters.

Dan Johnson, Badger Meters, made his presentation. (In file)

Perry stated that he would like to have a discussion on the meters at the next meeting.

Boulanger stated that he'll get some cost estimates together for the Board to look over at the next meeting.

8. Old Business

A. Stormwater Utilities – Canceled out by Item 2.

9. Areas of Concern

10. Adjournment

Motion: Coyle made the motion to adjourn at 7:36pm, Spuler seconded.

Vote: U/A