



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 21, 2011**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Chair Otis Perry, Vice Chair Jay Stephens, Dana Leggett, Mark Moeller

Alternate Member Present: Ted Mortner

Members Absent: Mike Earley, Marty Coyle, Ed Spuler

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 6:07pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Perry stated that item 5B has been settled. There was an error in the calculations and the applicant will not be present.

3. Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2011

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

Bretz stated that minutes need to be adjusted to reflect correct abatement amount for 75 Emerald Lane. Applicant had appealed DUC decision, upon listening to audio again mistake was found.

Vote: U/A with corrections.

4. User's Forum

5. Abatement Requests

26 Rosanna Drive

The applicant, James Long, stated that he had received a large bill. When he called the Water and Sewer Billing Department, the employee stated that he needed to come in to the office to file an abatement. During the quarter of the bill in question, he had put in a lawn. The employee he had spoken to stated that residents file abatements for putting in a lawn all of the time. He scheduled an appointment for Staff to come out and test the fixtures; he felt that was a waste of time. The house is only three years old; everything is brand new. He's not sure what they found because they didn't tell him anything. When he called the office, they told him that everything was fine and he would receive something in the mail. He feels that it's more of a customer service issue. The employee he spoke to should have pointed him to the City of Dover website/DUC Rules and Regulations policy. He wasn't aware that there was a memo meter policy.

Perry stated that the reason Staff went to the house was because that is part of the policy. They have to inspect other fixtures to make sure there isn't a leaking toilet so they can eliminate that from the list of alternatives. The Abatement Review Team sent you the letter denying the abatement based on the memo meter policy.

Steele asked if when he went to City Hall, was he encouraged to file an abatement?



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 21, 2011**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Long stated that he wasn't necessarily encouraged. He was told that it's what residents do or what's been done in the past.

Moeller stated that this is a difficult issue. He has an irrigation system. He learned the hard way that a memo meter needs to be put in and then the department deducts the sewer portion. We tell people that come before us that if the water went through the system, we're going to bill them for it. In this case, there's some suggestion that water went through the system but we know some of it didn't go through the sewer. How do you calculate that? How can you be consistent and encourage people to do things the right way?

Motion: Stephens made the motion to deny the request based on the DUC policy regarding memo meters and keeping track of uses, Leggett seconded.

Vote: U/A

Mortner arrived at 6:15.

Discussion ensued regarding the memo meter policy.

A. 75 Emerald Lane - Canceled

6. Reports

A. Abatement Review Team Report - None

B. Utilities Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

C. Finance Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

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

Vote: U/A

7. New Business

8. Old Business

A. Estimated Budget for Meter Replacement

Boulanger stated that he's provided the members with three quotes on changing the meter system to the new reader system. These are preliminary budget numbers that we would phase in over three years. It's over \$2 million in some cases.

Perry asked if they would have to purchase new meters and transponders from Badger?

Boulanger stated no it would just be the electronics but regardless of the company, the City will still have to purchase new meters to replace the older meters.

The Board proceeded to review and discuss the quote charts.



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 21, 2011**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

9. Areas of Concern

Steele stated that Dean Peschel, City of Dover consultant for Willand Pond will be doing a presentation before City Council regarding the wells at Willand Pond. It's looking like the City can get a million gallons per day from both wells. The long term plan would be to pipe it to Lowell Ave to treat it there.

Steele stated that another important thing that is ongoing is the permitting for WWTP with the nitrogen removal. A coalition has developed. It's all of the neighboring communities that discharge into the Great Bay. They've come together as one body to try to work with the State and EPA on the limitations that they're going to put on all of our wastewater treatment plants. Nitrogen is the issue and it's looking like they are going to make all the treatment plants have a limit of 3mg per liter which is extremely costly to get to that limit. Currently, they don't even treat for it. Exeter just received news from the EPA that they have to have 3mg in their permit. This could have a huge impact on sewer rates.

Moeller asked if all states are coming into this mandate.

Steele stated that it's primarily the Great Bay estuary communities because of the implications it has on the eel grass in the Great Bay.

Perry asked what implications it may have on the storm water issue.

Steele stated that's where we feel the EPA should be steering us towards is more of the storm water issues and educating people about the use of fertilizers.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Stephens made the motion to adjourn at 7:14pm, Leggett seconded.

Vote: U/A