



**CITY OF DOVER**

## DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH  
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 24, 2014**  
Meeting Time: **6:45 pm**

**Members Present:** Chairman Otis Perry, Vice Chairman Jay Stephens, Dennis Munson, Bret Carmichael, Mark Moeller, Chris Berg

**Alternate Member Present:** Matt Lahr

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

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m.

### 2. Next Meeting Date

April 21, 2014

### 3. Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2013

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

**Corrections:** Stephens stated that on the first page, it should be state that Ray Paradis holds a septic installer license instead of a septic designer's license. On the second page, it should state that the septic systems need to be inspected by a certified inspector as opposed to a licensed designer.

**Vote:** U/a

### 4. Abatement Requests

#### A. 51-53 Belknap Street

Daniel Clapp, applicant, stated that on May 6, 2013 he received high usage letter. The next quarter bill was extremely high as well. He contacted the Water & Sewer Billing office. He requested an inspection of the residence. It is a two unit, owner occupied residence. He noticed that he did have a leak on the exterior faucet. Staff conducted an inspection of the inside. On September 25, 2013, he filed an abatement for each invoice. He received a letter on November 25, 2013 for one abatement which was approved for \$115.65 but he never heard a word on the second one. He called in December and was e-mailed the second letter which was denied. He doesn't understand why one was approved and the other was denied.

Boulanger stated that when they reviewed the abatement, the first one was for the winter month's quarter which was granted. The second bill was for three months later. He figured that the applicant should have fixed the spigot by then. Seemed like a long time that the spigot was broken.

Berg asked when the spigot was fixed.

Clapp stated that it was corrected three weeks prior to city staff coming out. After inspecting the sewer numerous times, they could not find a leak.

Stephens stated that it didn't make sense why they granted the first abatement for the first quarter but the second one was not.

Boulanger stated that it seemed like an awfully long time to fix an outside spigot.

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

**Vote:** U/a



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### **B. 81 Old Dover Point Road**

Darlene Griffin, applicant, stated that she has been in her home for five years. This was the highest bill she's ever received. She always tries to conserve water. Staff came out to the home to inspect but found no leaks. A meter test was done. When the meter test was over, her husband noticed that the dial kept running after the water was stopped. They have a pool and a hot tub that they fill every year. They've never used that much water even after filling the pool. The toilet chain had broken a few years ago. When that happened, they immediately shut the water off and replaced the chain.

Carmichael asked if there have been problems with the meter since the test.

Applicant stated that the usage has gone back to normal.

Boulanger stated that in these cases, the meter is the only thing that staff can rely on. The meter tested out at 98.66% which is within the range of accuracy. Not knowing where the water went, the meter test is the only thing the commission can rely on.

**Motion:** Moeller made the motion to table the abatement, contingent on finding the applicant's previous meter to test, Munson seconded.

**Vote:** U/a

### **C. 11 Wallace Drive**

Tammy Proulx, applicant, stated that she had received a phone call stating that there was something wrong with the meter battery. They've never had a water bill as high as it was. The bill was over \$800.00. When staff came to her home to inspect, she did see the water at the overflow with staff. She realizes why her abatement was denied.

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

**Vote:** U/a

## **5. 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:** Munson made the motion to approve the reports, Stephens seconded.

**Vote:** U/a

## **6. New Business**



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### 7. Old Business

#### A. Nute Road Sewer Waiver

Boulanger stated there are 4-5 applicants attempting to seek a waiver from the sewer main that is going to be installed on Nute Road. He contacted the NHDES Subsurface Bureau to find out information regarding the life of a septic system. They informed him that it is 25-30 years depending on its use. He believes the commission should grant waivers for 30 years of useful life on their septic system. For example, if a resident had their leach field installed in 1996, their waiver would expire in 2026. If they request anything for a leach field tie in, it automatically makes them have to tie in.

Perry asked when the 30 years would start and if they have to have a licensed inspector inspect system.

Boulanger stated the 30 years would be from the original installation.

Stephens stated one of the petitioners stated that if their septic goes, the state allows them to have a replacement in kind. If picked 30 years, two of the septic systems are over 30 years of age and had a replacement in kind.

Perry stated that they do need to have individual criteria for each one.

Carmichael stated that his perception is that the applicants don't want the month to month cost.

Stephens stated that the waiver should be based on current conditions of the septic system as well as the age of the system. The leech field is what they need to concentrate on.

Perry stated they need to think about three things: standard life expectancy, no waiver of the investment fee and if they grant a waiver they have the right to put conditions on the waiver.

Boulanger asked if each applicant needs to have their system inspected.

As an incentive to tying in, now, they could waive the investment fee.

Steele stated that with the investment fee and the cost to install the system, it could be a \$10k bill.

Perry stated that the city could pay for the septic evaluation, go out to bid and possibly get a lower price.

Steele stated that he would speak with the Finance Department regarding going out to bid for a licensed inspector.

### 8. User's Forum-no residents

### 9. Areas of Concern

### 10. Adjournment

**Motion:** Munson made the motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm, Moeller seconded.

**Vote:** U/a