



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, August 17, 2015**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Chairman Otis Perry, Vice Chairman Jay Stephens, Dennis Munson, Mark Moeller, Matt Lahr

Members Absent: Bret Carmichael

Alternate Member Present:

Staff Present: Bill Boulanger, Superintendent of PW & Utilities, Dean Peschel, Environmental Consultant, Gretchen Young, Asst. City Engineer

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2015

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

Corrections: Lahr stated that he was absent from the June meeting but the minutes state that he was present.

Vote: U/a

3. Abatement Requests

A. 4 Briarwood Lane - Alexander & Marina Geller

Applicant, Alexander Geller, introduced himself. He submitted other paperwork.

Neighbor, Paul Marino, introduced himself. Stated he was present to help his neighbor.

Applicant stated that their average bill is 18-20 units per quarter. The bill that they're disputing was 1,022 units. This bill was for winter usage.

Neighbor stated that there are only two people living in their home. He believes that the meter is faulty.

Perry asked if the applicant had a basement or a slab.

Applicant stated that they had a full basement.

Perry asked if they had taken a long vacation during the winter.

Applicant stated no.

Boulanger stated that the meter tested out at 100%. The applicant was granted a sewer abatement because it was noted that there was a broken hose but just realized that was some time ago. When he read the card, it shows that the blue dial, on the meter, was spinning slowly.

Applicant stated that the dishwasher was running when they were inspecting the home. He stated that once the meter was replaced, their usage was back to normal.

Marino stated that he doesn't believe that 765,000 gallons of water could dispense onto a yard without a homeowner detecting it.

Munson stated that in the winter time, it could happen. You wouldn't see it. You may see it in the spring if you were looking for it. The ground would have been soggy.

Marino stated that there are only two explanations. The meter is faulty or 765,000 gallons dispensed from an outside outlet.



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Perry stated that there is one other explanation and that's dependent on whether or not the distribution pipe goes back under the ground after it goes through the meter. There could be something going on there. If that was true, the current meter would be reading that which it isn't.

Marino stated that they understand why the sewer charge was abated which they appreciate. He stated that the meter was tested by the City. They do not doubt the integrity of the test. If this was presented in a court of law, the meter would be set aside, a third party lab would look exam it. They don't have that opportunity. Since there was not 765,000 gallons of water sitting in the house, leaking, you have to assume that it would be an outside outlet. He doesn't believe that 21 swimming pools worth of water could dispense itself on a homeowner's lawn without the homeowner knowing it.

Perry stated that the logic for the granting of the sewer and not the water is the implication on the paperwork is that it was an outside spigot that malfunctioned. This would mean that the water did not go through the meter sewer system so it couldn't be charged.

Stephens asked what the justification was for the sewer abatement.

Boulanger stated that he didn't read the card thoroughly. That was his error.

Stephens stated that if there wasn't a broken hose, there should not have been a sewer abatement.

Marino asked if Stephens was under the impression that the abatement was granted falsely.

Stephens stated that the rationale that was used was that water had gone through the outside faucet as a probability and the water had gone out over the ground and not through the sewer. Normally you pay the same usage rate for what went into the sewer because 99.99% of the water does go back out to the sewer. Regardless, even if it was a leak under the cellar, the water went into the house and through the meter. You pay for the water that went through the meter. The problem is, they're not sure what the issue was.

Perry asked what the chance was of getting the meter tested independently.

Boulanger stated that it was something that could be done.

Marino stated that the logical explanation is that there is a faulty meter.

Motion: Stephens made the motion to table the meeting, have the meter tested by an outside source as well as a site visit to check the path of the piping as well as pictures, Munson seconded.

Vote: U/a

4. Reports

A. Abatement Review Team Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.



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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, Munson seconded.

Vote: U/a

5. New Business

A. Stormwater Management Regulation Changes

Young and Peschel discussed the reasoning for updating the regulations.

6. Old Business

7. User's Forum

8. Next Meeting Date

September 21, 2015

9. Adjournment

Motion: Moeller made the motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m., Lahr seconded.

Vote: U/a