



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, May 15, 2017**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Vice Chairman Jay Stephens, Dennis Munson, Robert Berry, Mark Moeller, Norm Allie

Members Absent: Chairman Otis Perry, Bret Carmichael

Alternate Member Present: Vacant

Staff Present: Doug Steele, Deputy City Manager Community Services, Bill Boulanger, Superintendent of PW & Utilities, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

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

2. User's Forum - None

3. Approval of Minutes of April 24, 2017

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

Vote: U/a

4. Abatement Requests

A. 60 Cushing Street – Jill Brooks

Not present

B. 14 Hamilton Street – Robert Giegengack

Applicant stated that he received an invoice with 42 units of usage. Quite a few years back he had received a bill with 46 units. That extra usage was due to landscaping. He has no extra usage to explain where the 42 units came from. He filed an abatement. The meter was changed out during the inspection. There were no leaks found. He lives in an old house and would hear it if a toilet was leaking.

Boulanger stated that one thing he noticed that could affect his usage was three meter readings were estimated readings.

Moeller asked why they were estimated.

Boulanger stated that it was due to the transponder dying. At one point the city didn't have enough meters to change out all of the ones that needed to be changed. Until we were able to catch up, they were manually estimating bills. It could be that the high usage was part of a catch-up bill.

Motion: Moeller made the motion to abate 50% (\$120.30) of the bill under the assumption that there was some sort of leak, Munson seconded.

Vote: U/a

C. 45 Sandra's Run – Gary Oczkowski

Applicant stated that he's lived in Dover for two years. He is a foster parent with a 1 ½ year old. When he received his summer water bill, he didn't understand how he could have used that amount of water.

Boulanger stated that the meter tested out at 100%. The Abatement Review Team didn't have an answer for the high usage which is why it has come before the board.

Applicant stated that he doesn't have a sprinkler system and he isn't home during the week.



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, May 15, 2017**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Stephens stated that one of the problems the board sees is that once in a while, there is a weird reading.

Allie asked if there was a way to receive a monthly report.

Boulanger stated that he is able to run a report of the time in question

Motion: Allie made the motion to move the abatement to the June meeting pending a meter report, Moeller seconded.

Vote: U/a

D. 74 Bellamy Woods – Bradford Greene

Applicant's spouse, Lisa Greene, appeared before the board. She stated that the condo was purchased in late August, 2011 for their daughter to live in while attending school. For some reason, they did not receive a water bill for 4 years. When they did receive one, it was for 13 units. The next bill was for 134 units of water for \$1,652. 14. They contacted a plumber who confirmed that there were no leaks. Shortly thereafter, City of Dover staff came out to the home and also confirmed that there were no leaks. During that appointment, staff changed out a piece of equipment related to the meter. Staff asked her daughter if they could see the toilets. The meter was tested, with her husband present, in December 2016. At that time, it was concluded that the meter was working properly and their abatement request was denied. The City of Dover was asking them to accept the readings as accurate and assume the responsibility of the unpaid balance. There are some points that do need to be addressed.

The first reading, after four years, was only 13 units which clearly reflects a problem with the meter reading then. With no leaks found by a plumber and City of Dover staff it is implausible that 100,000 gallons of water were used by their daughter in three months. Considering that a piece of the meter was replaced, all readings thereafter are completely logical.

Boulanger stated that he does not know why they did not receive a water bill for four years.

Stephens stated that the 6/27/16 reading was an actual reading 7 units. The invoice before, 12/2015, was for 13 units. He doesn't understand where the usage would have come from.

Berry asked why no one questioned receiving a water and sewer bill

Applicant stated that they are not from this area and thought that the water and sewer bill were rolled into their condo fees.

Motion: Berry made the motion to abate 99 units of water (\$482.13) and sewer (\$793.98), Munson seconded.

Vote: u/a



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, May 15, 2017**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

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, Moeller seconded.

Vote: U/a

6. New Business

A. Fluoridation of City Water – Norman Allie

Allie stated that he's always been a water quality buff. He is keenly interested in anything that is added to the water. He's completed a lot of research on fluoride and chlorine. He found that the addition of chlorine, to the water, is voluntary. There is no state statute. What he didn't know was who made the decision to add chlorine to the water. He asked if Community Services made the decision.

Boulanger stated that it probably was. Before they started adding chlorine to the water, they were getting a number of bacteria hits. The best way to reduce the number of bacteria hits was to add chlorine to the water. It's more of a prevention mode to stop the growth of bacteria in the distribution system. It's not in the wells. The wells are pristine.

Allie stated that he was very surprised that it wasn't a state statute. He also found that New Hampshire provides fluoridation by referendum which he found interesting. The referendum was passed, in Dover, in 1987 but implemented in 1990. A lot has changed in thirty years. Allie provided a handout of the history of fluoride.

Fluoridation is a political issue. He doesn't want to engage in a debate about the merits of fluoride. He stated that he wanted to demonstrate that there is a legitimate debate. There is a lot of new information surrounding this subject that wasn't available in 1987. The idea of suspending fluoridation is not something unusual or out of the ordinary. He proceeded to go over the handout.

He would like the commission to take a vote, at the next meeting, to recommend that City Council consider putting this on the ballot for 2017.

Steele stated that in order for this subject to be placed on the ballot, City Council recommends it based on a petition.

Allie stated that a petition is not required. They have the authority to place it on the ballot, on their own. He's asking for the commissions support to get it on the ballot. It's the right thing to do. Dover has a new generation of citizens who may not want this in their water.

Stephens stated that it can be placed under New Business for the June meeting.

Boulanger stated that it would be helpful for the board if they had a draft resolution.



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, May 15, 2017**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Berry stated that Allie may want to speak with some of the people in the Health program at UNH. It may help to have some support from them. The Commission is not a political group but they can make people aware if there's an issue.

Steele stated that next month, if the board votes to move forward, Staff could draw up the resolution, then take a vote to move forward to city council.

Boulanger stated that if he could complete more research into how other communities went about removing fluoride from their systems that would be helpful.

7. Old Business

A. New Meter Discussion – Bret Carmichael

Not present

B. DPH1 Upgrade

Steele stated that he and Boulanger wanted to make a proposal to change the name of the new well from DPH1 to the Lavoie Well in honor of Pete Lavoie, the former Community Services Director. He was instrumental in water expansion. He's still a Dover resident and worked for the city for over 30 years.

Motion: Berry made the motion to change the name of the well from DPH1 to Lavoie Well, Moeller seconded.

Vote: U/a

C. Water Facilities Upgrade

Boulanger presented pictures to the board of the upgrades.

D. Lawn Watering Ban (tabled 4/24/2017)

8. Areas of Concern

9. Next Meeting Date

June 19, 2017

10. Adjourn

Motion: Moeller made the motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m., Berry seconded.

Vote: U/a