



**CITY OF DOVER**

## DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH  
Meeting Date: **Monday, July 16, 2018**  
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

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

**Members Absent:** Bob Berry

**Alternate Member Present:** Ron Lanton

**Staff Present:** William Boulanger, Deputy Director Community Services, Dean Peschel, Environmental Consultant, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. User's Forum - None

### 3. Election of Officers

#### A. Nomination of Chairman

**Motion:** Stephens made the motion to elect Bret Carmichael as Chairman, Munson seconded.

**Vote:** U/a

#### B. Nomination of Vice-Chairman

**Motion:** Munson made the motion to elect Jay Stephens as Vice-Chairman, Carmichael seconded.

**Vote:** U/a

Carmichael assumed the position of Chairman

### 4. Approval of Minutes of April 16, 2018

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

**Vote:** U/a

**Motion:** Stephens made the motion to have Lanton sit in as a voting member, Munson seconded.

**Vote:** U/a

**Moeller arrived at 6:08 pm**

### 5. Abatement Requests

#### A. 120 Tideview Drive - Mary Golden

Applicant, Mary Golden, stated that her spouse passed away five years ago. Her husband always kept an eye on anything that happened within the household. Her son recently noticed that her toilet was leaking. She contacted a plumber and they immediately repaired it. Unfortunately, she is unsure of how long the toilet had been leaking. The amount of her utility bill is more than she can afford.

Applicant's son, David Golden, asked how his mother would have known that her toilet had been leaking.

Boulanger stated that they try to tell residents to take the top of the tank off and check if the water is going over the overflow tube. Sometimes you can hear if there is a leak. There is a dial or a digital read on the meter. If you shut all of the water sources off and the dial is still moving then that would be an indication of a leak.



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David Golden asked if there was any kind of relief or a one-time forgiveness.

Boulanger stated that the only relief the city can give is what the board chooses to abate. Boulanger stated that the resident wouldn't have picked up on the leaking toilet until she had received her utility bill. She was sent a high usage letter prior to receiving the utility bill. The applicant filed an abatement. Staff inspected the residence. At that time they adjusted the two toilets because the water was going over the overflow tube. On the application, the applicant stated that the toilet had been leaking. The Abatement Review Team will deny the abatement request if the toilet is leaking. The reason being that the water does enter the sanitary sewer system and treated at the wastewater treatment plant. If an outside spigot is leaking, the sewer portion is typically waived.

**Motion:** Perry made the motion to abate \$300 of the sewer charge, Moeller seconded.

**Discussion:** Perry stated that even though the water was treated, it was clear water which isn't as expensive to treat.

Stephens stated that in the past, the board has encouraged other to see the finance department to set up a payment plan. Typically, the commission has denied abatements of this sort since the sewer water is treated. It's a difficult situation.

**Vote:** Passes 4-2; Stephens, Allie oppose.

### **B. 24 Old Stage Road - Brenda Tirrell**

Boulanger stated that the city installed new sewer on Old Stage Road and Richardson Drive as part of the Richardson Drive Reconstruction project. When sewer is installed, the city sends letters to all of the residents explaining that they have 90 days to connect to the sewer system. Some residents have newer septic systems or a septic system that is still in working condition. This can be a hardship for some residents. If the resident would like to seek a waiver from tying into the sewer system, the City requests that the applicant provide the Dover Utilities Commission with a septic evaluation. The evaluation will provide the life of the system as well as the condition of the system. The property owners of 24 Old Stage Road are very elderly. They are represented by their daughter and her spouse. They are requesting that the tie in is waived until the home changes ownership.

**Norman Allie stated the he did not have enough information and is recusing himself.**

Applicant's daughter, Brenda Tirrell, stated that her father was getting nervous about the sewer installation and requested that she attend the meetings on her parent's behalf. Her parents are in their 80's. She took notes at each meeting. Throughout the meetings, it was implied that the residents could seek a waiver for such a situation. It is a hardship for her parents financially, emotionally and mentally to have people come into their home and do the construction that would be required to hook in. Based on the evaluation there is a working system in place.

Boulanger stated that in the past, the DUC has granted a waiver for up to 15 years. The lifetime of a septic system is 25 years. In the DUC Rules and Regulations it does state that the a waiver cannot be for longer than five years but he knows that the board granted a longer waiver or if ownership changes hands.



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**Motion:** Perry made the motion to grant the waiver for ten years or if there is a change of ownership or if there is a failure of the septic system. The waiver will need to be registered with the Registry of Deeds and the system will need to be pumped every year, Munson seconded.

**Vote:** 5-1; Allie recused.

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

**Vote:** U/a

### 7. New Business-None

### 8. Old Business

#### A. Lawn Watering Ban (tabled 9/18/2017)

**Motion:** Perry made the motion to remove the Lawn Watering Ban off of the table, Munson seconded.

**Vote:** 5-1; Allie opposed

Perry stated that an official decision needs to be made. The City Council has heard the ban and it's gone through public hearings. The DUC is responsible to the City Council, the City Manager and the citizens of Dover for making their recommendation to City Council before they vote on the water ban. The latest revisions were passed out this evening. He stated that that he supports the idea of a managed emergency water ordinance as written.

Boulanger stated that currently, it is abnormally dry. Peschel can verify that throughout the state it is moderately dry. It was recently discovered that the city may have to shut down the Ireland Well due to the PFOA's.

Peschel stated that there are a set of emerging contaminants PFOS and PFOA. In March 2016 the NHDES issued another Minimum Contaminant Level (mcl) which is what they consider to be safe. The Griffin Well was off when the level was set. As a result they have not been able to turn it back on. The contaminants are found in a number of items. The EPA is struggling to determine what a drinking water level should be. Merrimack and Portsmouth are currently having problems. There are a number of other related chemicals that are not regulated but the NHDES is working on having them regulated. The samples taken on July 7 show that Ireland Well had levels significantly higher than the state standards.

Boulanger stated there are the city has eight wells. Only four of them are running. If it continues to stay dry, there are decisions that will have to be made in order to conserve water. He stated that the City of Portsmouth has already put a ban in place. Discussion ensued on the proposed Lawn Watering Ban.



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**Motion:** Perry made the motion to recommend the water ban to City Council, Munson seconded.

**Vote:** 5-1; Allie opposed

### 9. Areas of Concern

### 10. Next Meeting Date

August 20, 2018

### 11. Adjourn

**Motion:** Munson made the motion to adjourn at 7:03 pm, Perry seconded.

**Vote:** U/a