



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, June 17, 2019**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Chairman Bret Carmichael, Otis Perry, Bob Berry, Mark Moeller

Excused Members Absent: Vice Chairman Jay Stephens, Dennis Munson

Unexcused Members Absent: Norman Alie

Excused Alternate Members Absent:

Unexcused Alternate Members Absent: Ron Lanton

Staff Present: William Boulanger, Deputy Director, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. User's Forum - None

3. Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2019

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

Vote: U/a

4. Abatement Requests

A. 48 Cushing Street – William Caron - Not present

Motion: Berry made the motion to refer to the next meeting, Perry seconded.

Vote: U/a

B. 8 Fairfield Drive – Mary Jane Fatuzzo

Applicant, Mary Jane Fantuzzo, Estate Executor, stated that her sister had previously been occupying the home but had been vacant since June 2017. She was appointed Executor in January 2019. As she was going through the paperwork she came upon the utility bills. She filed an abatement but was denied. The bills totaled over \$18,000. The house was vacant, her sister had no washing machine and lived like a hermit. Her sister also had an apartment in Boston that she spent time at. The last bill her sister paid was December 4, 2017. The next bill was dated January 31st for \$1,600. Her sister had returned to the home on December 7, fell and never came back to the house. She ended up in a nursing home in Massachusetts. For a bill to go from \$1,600 to \$18,000 is extremely high considering no one was in the home. She stated that a neighbor had told her that the city had been fixing a broken pipe outside and believes the extra water was from that.

Carmichael stated that the challenge the board is faced with is that the water was issued to the home and was processed through the system. He appreciates the financial impact but the utility bill is usage based.

Perry asked if a meter test had been completed.

Boulanger stated that the applicants' sister was a hoarder. When city staff went to inspect the residence, they didn't want to enter the home. Staff decided to shut the water off at the curb box. They had to dig up the curb box to access it.

Moeller asked if there was any evidence of a leak.

Boulanger stated they did not go inside the home to check.



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Moeller asked if there was any leak outside, in the road.

Boulanger stated that there was not.

Perry stated that their digging activity outside could have been perceived as “fixing a leak” to a neighbor.

Moeller stated that there was a note regarding faucets running.

Boulanger stated that they did eventually get into the home and found that there was a toilet running.

Applicant stated that the only time someone entered the home was when she hired a plumber. The plumber contacted W/S Billing and city staff came to remove the meter.

Boulanger stated that PJ Labrie noted that the toilet had been leaking for over a year. The city cannot shut the water off unless an owner requests it or for non-payment. The city cannot arbitrarily shut off the water in the street just because he wants to. The applicant’s sister passed away. There was a timeframe where nothing was happening. They finally received authorization from the applicant to shut off the water.

Moeller asked Boulanger why the water wasn’t shut off for such high usage.

Boulanger stated that the account had been in good standing. Then they were sending high usage letters to the mailing address. When her sister became the executor is probably when she received all of the bills.

Perry stated that there are two bills dated within a week apart with a difference of \$5,000. How can you use \$5,000 worth of water within a week?

Moeller stated that he noticed two bills that were within 9 days apart.

Perry requested clarification on the two invoice dates.

Motion: Perry made the motion to refer to next meeting to gather more info, Moeller seconded.

Vote: U/a

Motion: Moeller made motion the motion for the applicant’s attendance to be waived at the next meeting, Perry seconded.

Vote: U/a

Motion: Carmichael made the motion to hear New Business prior to the reports, Moeller seconded.

Vote: U/a



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5. Reports

A. Abatement Review Team Report

Motion: Perry made the motion to accept #'s 2-11 and refer #1 to the next meeting, Berry seconded.

Vote: U/a

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, Berry seconded.

Vote: U/a

6. New Business

A. Rollinsford Property Connection to City Water – Alicia Melanson

Boulanger stated that any time that a Rollinsford or Madbury resident requests to extend the City of Dover water line (franchise account) the request has to go before the Public Utilities Commission and a Franchise Agreement has to be completed per state regulations. He also has to receive DUC approval to add the residence as a franchise. The city has multiple franchise agreements with Rollinsford and Madbury residents. Dover is the only place they can obtain water unless a well is drilled.

Carmichael stated that the applicant's letter is requesting monetary relief as well.

Boulanger stated that he has to complete some work on Hall Street. He stated that there is one $\frac{3}{4}$ "spaghetti" line that is providing water to two homes on Hall Street. The applicant's home is going to be the third home on the line. She will have to pay the investment fees for the water hook up since the DUC is unable to waive investment fees. She will also have to hire someone to connect her line to the extended water line. The applicant has not constructed her home yet. Boulanger stated he's going to bring the water line to the edge of her property as well as add a hydrant.

Motion: Perry made the motion to endorse 7 Hall Street as a City of Dover franchise account, Berry seconded.

Vote: U/a

7. Old Business

8. Areas of Concern

9. Next Meeting Date

July 15, 2019

10. Adjourn

Motion: Perry made the motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m., Moeller seconded.

Vote: U/a