



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 16, 2019**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

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

Unexcused Members Absent: Dennis Munson

Excused Alternate Members Absent: Vacant

Unexcused Alternate Members Absent:

Staff Present: William Boulanger, Deputy Director, Joshua Wyatt, City Attorney, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. User's Forum - None

3. Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2019

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

Vote: U/a

4. Abatement Requests

A. 48 Cushing Street - William Caron

Applicant provided a handout for each member.

Applicant, William Caron, stated that he doesn't understand what happened. His family has owned the property for 40 years. He has owned the property since 1988. He sold the property in June 2019. He first noticed the high usage/billing amounts when he received the December bill for 48 Cushing Street. Part of the reason that he didn't notice it earlier was due to the fact that he thought that the property was on a quarterly billing cycle but it was on a monthly cycle. He also owns the property at 44-46 Cushing Street. That property is on a quarterly cycle. He contacted Water & Sewer Billing. City staff came out to inspect the property and was unable to find any leaks. The meter was changed out in April. He believes that the meter was faulty. The meter was tested by the City of Dover as well as the manufacturer of the meter. He's looking for help on what is going on because he's confused.

Boulanger stated that Mr. Caron applied for an abatement with the Abatement Review Team and was denied. The applicant witnessed the meter test conducted by the City of Dover. He explained to the applicant that the only thing he has to go by is the meter. He recommended sending it out for a meter test by the manufacturer. The meter fits within requirements of rules and regulations for being accurate. He has no other information to show that the meter was faulty.

Moeller asked what the reason was to replace meter.

Boulanger stated that the city is in the process of changing out meters.

Perry asked if it was an electronic read of the transponder.

Boulanger stated that it was. They go by the meter read when they pull the meter out.



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Perry stated that the occupants of the building lessen but the usage reading continues to go up. It doesn't make sense.

Stephens stated that there have been two people living in his home for the last 15 years. They never have a consistent water bill. What is confusing is when there are no occupants and the meter is still reading. The numbers don't change unless water is going through the meter.

Motion: Perry made the motion to abate \$1,258. 58 which is the period that the building was vacant, Berry seconded.

Discussion: Perry stated there was something wrong. We don't know what it was. May or may not have been the meter.

Stephens stated that he understands the rationale being used. He just has hard time agreeing since he knows that the water did go through the meter.

Vote: Vote 4-1; Stephens opposed.

B. 29 Cherrywood Drive - Brian Wydra

Applicants, Brian and Susan Wydra, stated that have been in the home for 19 years. In December of 2018 they had a new meter installed. In February 2019 they received a high usage tag. He contacted Water Sewer Billing. They stated that the meter is recording a lot more water usage than normal. He checked the home and was unable to find any leaks. City Staff came out to check the property and was unable to find any leaks. Over the course of 18 years, their average usage for the first quarter has been 30 units. They were billed for 53 units. They've raised three children in the house and have never used 53 units.

Boulanger stated that what he had tried to explain to the Wydra's was that the antenna on Long Hill Road was set at a certain height. They've since raised the height of the antenna. Previously, the antenna wasn't reading every single day. Looking at the hourly readings, on January 11, 2019, the reading recorded 5 days worth of reading. There were 9 days that it hadn't read, there were an average of 24 days that they didn't receive a reading from the antenna. Since the antenna height was raised, it's been catching up.

Applicant stated that they shouldn't be held accountable for the antenna not reading.

Discussion ensued on the length of the billing period.

Motion: Perry made the motion to deny the abatement, Stephens seconded.

Vote: 4-1; Moeller opposed.

C. 7-9 Court Street - Janice Karkos

Motion: Perry made the motion to table the abatement to the next meeting, Moeller seconded.

Vote: U/a



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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: Stephens made the motion to approve the reports, Perry seconded.

Vote: U/a

6. New Business

7. Old Business

8. Areas of Concern

Perry asked for an update on the unmetered water use.

Boulanger stated that they are shutting off all of the cemetery faucets.

9. Next Meeting Date

October 21, 2019

10. Adjourn

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

Vote: U/a