

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
February 12, 2013  
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM  
5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

George Lewis  
Arthur Hoffman  
Sharon Parshley  
Daniel Peterson

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Blaine Cox, Deputy CM  
Patricia Chandler, Appellant  
Larry Lane, Appellant  
Roger Galuska, Appellant  
Shawn Libby

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order.**

Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. All Board members were present.

**II. Acceptance of January 14, 2012 Minutes**

Arthur Hoffman offered the following edits to the draft minutes

- III, D, 2 – strike “and hot water tank”
- III, D – add#3 with the following note: The UAB based its decision, among other factors, upon a report from consulting engineer Wright-Pierce.
- III, D – after the MOTION PASSED notation, add: The UAB based this decision, among other factors, upon the fact that a decision on this abatement was delayed due to there being no meeting in November due to a lack of a quorum and no decision in December due to a request for more information.

George Lewis **MOVED** to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

**III. Appeals**

**A. Old Business**

**Jaime Hoey Abatement Reconsideration**

Deputy City Manager Cox informed the UAB that his recommendation last month was based upon incorrect usage data. The 90.5 units of above average usage should in fact have been 66.67 units at a value of \$407.35.

Sharon Parshley **MOVED** to reconsider the UAB action of last month. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

Sharon Parshley **MOVED** to amend the abatement from the previous \$552.96 to a new abatement amount of \$407.35. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

B. New Business

1. Chandler Appeal

Ms. Chandler was present and explained her reasons for requesting an abatement of the service fees.

Deputy City Manager Cox recommended denying the abatement request based upon the following findings:

- a. The customer makes no claim that the billed usage is incorrect.
- b. The City's General Ordinances Chapters 16 (Sewer) and 17 (Water) make no provision to abate fees based upon (a) hardship or (b) prior record of on-time payments.

George Lewis **MOVED** to deny the abatement request. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

2. Lane Appeal

Mr. Lane was present and explained his reasons for requesting an abatement.

Mr. Lane's appeal states that he is requested an abatement of \$1,347.00 due to an underground leak. The appellant states that the leak was located in the waterline just after the meter.

Deputy City Manager Cox recommended denial of any abatement on this appeal. based upon the following findings:

- a. The customer makes no claim that the billed usage is incorrect.
- b. The usage was received at the service location.

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** to deny the abatement request. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

### 3. Galuska Appeal

Mr. Galuska was present and explained his reasons for requesting an abatement. His appeal states that he found he had left the hose running in the yard one weekend.

Deputy City Manager Cox recommended denial of any abatement on this appeal. The recommendation is based upon the following findings:

- a. The appellant has not provided any proof to corroborate that an outside fixture being left open was the cause of the higher than normal usage and that this usage did not enter the sewer treatment system.
- b. The estimated over the average usage is 37 units (122 units usage minus 85 units averaged over previous four quarters). This above average usage equates to approximately 3,700 cubic feet of water. This seems like too small of an amount from a hose running for three days based upon the leak calculator we have that indicates a ¼ inch stream of water would result in 5,266 cubic feet of water over 3 days (158,000 cubic feet per quarter ÷ 90 days in the quarter x 3 day weekend).

Sharon Parshley **MOVED** to abate 23 units of sewer valued at \$140.53. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote.

### IV. Mobile Home Park Sewer Assessment Question

Deputy City Manager Cox shared with the UAB the Charter restrictions and Ordinance amendment process pertaining to changing the sewer fee assessment process for mobile home parks.

### V. Water and Sewer Financial Reports

Mr. Hoffman requested information on the following items contained in the monthly financial reports:

- Water Treatment Plant, 51601073 -561031 Chemicals – why is the budget line 82% spent this early in the year?
- Water Treatment Plant, 51601073-589030 Pro Tx Com – what is this expenditure?

### VI. Other

No other items were brought up for discussion.

## VII. Adjournment

George Lewis **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the **MOTION PASSED** on a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 P.M.

Respectfully,

**Blaine Cox**  
Digitally signed by Blaine Cox  
DN: cn=Blaine Cox, o=City of  
Rochester, ou=Finance,  
email=blaine.cox@rochesternh.net,  
c=US  
Date: 2013.02.14 16:42:50 -05'00'

Blaine M. Cox  
Deputy City Manager

BMC:sam