

UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 14, 2015
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Peterson, Chairman
Shawn Libby
Thomas H. Willis, Jr

MEMBERS ABSENT

Arthur Hoffman

OTHERS PRESENT

John Storer, PE, Director City Services
Richard and Sharon Tara
Susan Frazier
Joseph and Rebecca Stevens

MINUTES

1. Call to order:

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. Board member Arthur Hoffman was absent.

2. Approve Minutes for August 10, 10, 2015.

Chairman Peterson asked for a recommendation on last month's meeting minutes.

Mr. Willis made a motion to approve minutes for the August 10, 2015 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Libby. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Appeals

3.1 Rebecca & Joseph Stevens, #86 Eastern Avenue

The appellants were present at the meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which stated they did not find a leak at the residence. The last bill was \$121.96 and the bill in question was \$1,102.35. City Staff recommended no abatement on the invoice amount. Mr. Stevens stated that there house sits on a slab and they would have noticed a leak that was 10 times the normal limit.

Mr. Willis made a motion to table this appeal for a month so DPW can look into what kind of meter is installed at the residence and to see if it's working correctly. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Jacqueline Goodwin, # 7 Second Street

The appellant was not present at meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which stated the outside valve was pushed open from the weight of the snow. City Staff recommended abatement for the sewer portion of the 6 units of above average use.

Mr. Libby made a motion to abate the 6units of sewer valued at \$6.24 each, for a total of \$37.44. Mr. Wills seconded The motion passed unanimously.

3.3 J Bruce Roberts, #15 Norway Plains Road

The appellant's daughter Susan Frazier was present at meeting, her father Mr. Roberts passed away on June 10, 2015. The board reviewed the appeal which stated there was a constant running toilet that had not been found due to property being vacant after her father passed away in June. She said she was asking for forgiveness, no one used the toilet and she had already paid the \$75.00 invoice.

Chairman Peterson made a motion to deny the abatement of 16 units of water. The motion was seconded by Mr. Libby. The motion passed unanimously.

3.4 Richard Tara, #23 Alice Lane

The appellants were present at the meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which stated there were two leaks in the irrigation system. They are looking to get an abatement on 61 Units of water. City staff recommended no abatement on the appeal.

Mr. Willis made a motion to deny the abatement of 61 units of water due to the fact the water did go through the meter. The motion was seconded by Chairman Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

3.5 Kenneth Voss, #272 Chesley Hill Road

The appellants were not present at the meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which stated he was told to keep his water running for 30 minutes after water and sewer work was performed on Chesley Hill Road. City Staff recommended abatement for 1 unit of water and 1 unit of sewer.

Mr. Willis made a motion to abate 1 unit of water valued at \$4.67 each and 1 unit of sewer valued at \$6.24 each for a total of \$10.91. Chairman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3.6 Alberto & Claudia Ferro, #17 Juniper Street

The appellants were not present at the meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which stated the customer is appealing the \$30.00 service charge for non-payment of the May bill. The technician went out on July 7, 2015 to turn off the water, at which time the homeowner called in to make arrangements to pay by July 10, 2015. City Staff recommend no abatement for the service charge.

Mr. Willis made a motion to deny the abatement, stating, "the policy to charge \$30.00 to have the water shut off". The motion was seconded by Chairman Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

3.7 Diana Fowler, #3 Hickey Street

The appellant was not present at the meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which stated that she had been billed for a broken water meter, and there was no above average use. City staff recommended no abatement.

Mr. Willis made a motion to take no action. Mr. Libby said no action was needed. The motion passed unanimously.

3.8 Michael Bean, #3 Janet Street

The appellant was not present at the meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which stated that the customer is appealing the sewer charges on the June bill stating that a hose was left on for a period of several days while they were away. City Staff recommended an abatement of 34 units of sewer.

Chairman Peterson made a motion to abate 34 units of sewer valued at \$6.24 each for a total of \$212.16. The motion was seconded by Mr. Libby. The motion passed unanimously.

3.9 Irene Laurion, #8 Elizabeth Street

The appellant was not present at the meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which states her bills are consistently 4 units of water and she does not have a leak. City staff recommended no abatement.

Mr. Willis made a motion to table this appeal, to get a sense of the October bill, then maybe put on the November agenda. The motion was seconded by Chairman Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

3.10 Susan G & Darren Scott, #24 Howe Street

The appellant was not present at the meeting. The board reviewed the appeal which stated the customer is appealing 22 units of sewer for a pool fill. The customer received her August bill and noticed that the pool credit was not accounted for. City staff recommended an abatement of 22 units of sewer.

Chairman Peterson made a motion to abate 22 units of sewer valued at \$6.24 each, for a total of \$137.28. Mr. Willis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial Reports

The board reviewed all financial reports.

5. Other

Wastewater Treatment Plant Discussion

There was a short discussion of the Wastewater Treatment regulatory and treatment operations.

Change of Date for October's Meeting-Discussed

October's Utility Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Monday October 5, 2015, due to Columbus Day that is on October 12, 2015.

Adjournment:

Mr. Willis made a motion to adjourn at 6:39PM. The motion was seconded by Chairman Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary DPW.