

**Utility Advisory Board
November 9, 2015 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Conference Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Arthur Hoffman

OTHERS PRESENT

John B. Storer, PE, Director City Services
Bob Steele, Elks Lodge
Tom Ducharme, Elks Lodge
Desiree Hafford, 18 Health Care Drive
Joseph & Rebecca Stevens, 86 Eastern Ave
David Stevens, 86 Eastern Ave

MINUTES

1. Call to order:

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

2. Appeals -

2.1 295 Columbus Avenue Rochester Elks Lodge

Mr. Steele and Mr. Ducharme were present at the meeting. Mr. Ducharme described the water line break and the efforts made to repair. He stated that the line was broke underground and under the cement slab. He stated that the water did not enter the sewer system. Mr. Steele stated that this invoice for 10X their average bill exceeds the Elks budget. He discussed the many charitable ways that the Elks assist the Community and stated that while crediting the sewer portion of the bill is a great relief, he would like the Board to consider crediting the water as well. Chairman Peterson stated that as the water did pass through the meter the customer is responsible for that cost. Mr. Storer stated that the City Manager, per ordinance, can modify any actions taken by the Utility Advisory Board. Mr. Steele stated that he will make an appointment with the City Manager.

Mr. Libby made a motion to abate 814.25 units of sewer at \$6.24 for a total of \$5,080.92 and all accrued interest. Chairman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.2 18 Healthcare Drive Assisted Living Facility – Guy & Desiree Hafford

Mrs. Hafford was present at the meeting. She stated that irrigation had been installed at the property and was run for the summer months. Mrs. Hafford stated that the builder (Mr. Hafford) had not had a sewer deduct meter installed on that line and that they were unaware of the cost of irrigating until they received the invoice. She stated

that prior to irrigating next spring they will have the sewer deduct installed and they are asking for a credit on the sewer portion of the invoice.

Mr. Willis made a motion to abate 778 units of sewer valued at \$6.24 each, for a total of \$4,854.72, plus all accrued interest. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.3 86 Eastern Avenue – Joseph & Rebecca Stevens

The appellants were present at the meeting. Mr. David Stevens spoke on their behalf. He stated that he took objection to Mr. Storer's recommendation. He stated that in the recommendation it stated they did not dispute the meter readings and says that they have clearly disputed the readings from the beginning. The appeal form does state that they do dispute the readings. David Stevens described at length the efforts made to find any sort of leak at the property and there were none found. Joseph & Rebecca Stevens were present to state that there had never been a leak at the property. Rebecca's Dad was there as well and stated that he has been helping to find any problems and they never found any leaks. David Stevens stated that he had researched the type of meter in place and that there have been some instances of failure. Mr. Storer stated that he apologized for the error in the recommendation, but he stands behind the accuracy of the meter. Chairman Peterson stated that there is no way for this board to know what went on in or outside the home at the time and the board only has the meter readings as evidence to the water use. Mr. Willis stated that these meters are said to be 99.9 percent accurate and stated that he will attribute this leak to the .01 percent.

Mr Willis made a motion to abate 99 units of sewer at \$6.24 each (\$617.76), 99 units of water at \$4.67 each (\$462.33) for a total of \$1,080.09, plus all accrued interest. As part of the motion, Mr. Willis stated that the current meter is to be replaced. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.4 18 Magic Avenue, Joel Norwood

The appellant was not present at the meeting. Mr. Norwood's appeal stated that he is appealing to have the \$30 service charge removed from his account. His property was scheduled for shut off and when the meter technician got there to shut off the property he stopped him from doing so as he was going to go pay his bill or have it paid by a charitable organization. Per ordinance 17.21(b) Unpaid bills of over (30)days shall constitute cause for water shutoff. If on the day of the shut off, the customer pays the outstanding bill after City personnel arrive at the customer's service to execute the shutoff, the customer will be assessed a minimum service charge. This charge is listed in section 17.33 Water Rate & Fee Schedule as \$30.

Mr. Libby made a motion to deny the appeal. Mr. Willis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.5 47 Farmington Road Suite 1, Poulin Realty

The appellant was not present at the meeting. Mr. Storer stated that he had asked the Board to table this appeal until he could speak with the appellant. He further stated that he had reviewed the meter account and discussed the set up with the technicians and he believes the billing to be accurate. He stated that due to the sewer deduct meter the location is already getting the sewer portion of the irrigation credited from invoices. Mr. Storer stated he would discuss the decision made by the Board with Mr. Poulin.

Chairman Peterson made a motion to deny the appeal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Accounts Receivable Credit Balance – Account 090938.

Chairman Peterson stated that the Finance Department requested a UAB recommendation to close out this aged credit balance account.

Chairman Peterson made a motion to adjust off credit balance on account 090938 in the amount of \$58.09, and to deposit funds as miscellaneous water fund revenue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Acceptance of October 5, 2015 Minutes

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

Mr. Willis made a motion to accept the October 5, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Libby. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Financial Reports

The board reviewed all financial reports

6. Adjournment:

Chairman Peterson made a motion to adjourn at 6:31PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Clark, City of Rochester Office Manager.