

**Utility Advisory Board
May 9, 2016 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Conference Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Peterson, Chairman

Shawn Libby

Thomas H. Willis, Jr

OTHERS PRESENT

John B. Storer, PE Director of City Services

Lori Connelly, 5 Weare Street

Robert & Judith Godfrey, 13 Allen Street

MINUTES

1. Call to order:

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. Appeals -

2.1 5 Weare Street, Connelly

The appellant, Lori Connelly was present. Mrs. Connelly stated that she had been to the UAB back in February and that her appeal was tabled. She stated that at the time she and her husband had explained that there were no leaks found at the property and that the meter was found to have a slight variation. She stated that she did not understand that why the committee had tabled the appeal as they had all of the information in front of them at that time. Mr. Peterson stated that while the meter had a slight variation, it was likely in the favor of the user. He further stated that the Board wanted to be sure that the account had returned to normal usage. Mr. Peterson explained that as the meter was found to be within ordinance and industry standards the water was to be considered used and the charges will stand. Mrs. Connelly expressed her displeasure with the Board and the process. She stated that the board had not made it clear that they would not consider a credit on the water. Mr. Libby stated that it could be possible that something had been left running or a pipe could have leaked in the basement and he stated that he would consider abating the above average use for sewer. Mrs. Connelly asked Mr. Storer if he would want that meter in his house. Mr. Storer state that the meter was within industry standards and that the readings were likely in the favor of the user. Mr. Storer stated that a new meter had been put in and instead of putting the tested meter back in. He further stated that the City did waive that fee and leave the new meter in at the request of the Connelly's. .

Mr. Libby made a motion to abate 18.5 Units of Sewer plus accrued interest charges. Mr. Willis motioned to amend the motion and to abate 15.5 units of sewer plus accrued interest charges. Chairman Peterson seconded the amended motion and Board voted to abate 15.5 units of sewer. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Connelly stated she would like to take her appeal to the next level. Mr. Storer explained that she could request a meeting with the City Manager, Dan Fitzpatrick.

2.2 13 Allen Street – Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey

The appellants Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey were present. Mr. Godfrey explained the problem that occurred at the house. He and his wife were out of town from November 23, 2015 and returned in April. He explained to the board the great lengths he had gone through to winterize the house and fortunately he also had someone checking up on it. Mr. Godfrey stated that a heating pipe had burst and that the house had been flooded. He stated that the City's technicians came out and turned the water off and once repaired they came back and turned it on. Mr. Peterson explained that as the water had passed through the meter, the water charges would stand, but as the water did not enter the sewer system the board could abate those charges.

Mr. Willis made a motion to abate 26 units of sewer for a total of \$162.24, plus all accrued interest. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.3 4-6 Sunview Lane – Andrew Cooley

The appellant was not present for the meeting. The appeal stated that a hot water tank had malfunctioned causing the above average use at the duplex. As the water readings were not disputed and there is no sewer connection for this property, the board made the following decision. ..

Chairman Peterson made a motion to deny the requested abatement. Mr. Libby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the April 13, 2016 minutes

Chairman Peterson requested an action on the minutes from last meeting.

Mr. Willis made a motion to accept the April 13, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Libby. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial Reports – The Board reviewed the reports.

5. Periodic Abatements

Mr. Storer presented a draft of an abatement policy. He stated that it was nearly verbatim to the Exeter policy that he had presented last month. He further discussed the policy at the Public Works and Buildings Committee meeting last month and that Committee suggested that he draft a policy or ordinance change and have the UAB review it. He stated that he had discussed changing the ordinance with the City

Attorney and that Mr. O'Rourke suggested that it be a policy used to guide the UAB and they could have it approved by the City Council without making a change to the ordinance. Mr. Peterson stated that he believed it would help the board to give abatements in a fair and consistent manner. Mr. Willis stated that giving the ability for abatement of water in extreme cases will be beneficial. Mr. Libby voiced his support of the policy as well. Mr. Willis stated that he believed it should be reviewed and approved by the City Council. .

6. Adjournment:

Chairman Libby made a motion to adjourn at 6:45PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

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