

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 14, 2014
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Peterson
Arthur Hoffman
Shawn Libby
Tom Willis

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, Deputy City Manager
Debra Donaldson, Appellant
John Yerardi, Appellant
Ted Garland, Appellant
Steve Beaudoin, Appellant
Arthur Pelletier, Historical Society
Clelia Urcuioli, Historical Society

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sharon Parshley

MINUTES

1. Call to Order.

Daniel Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Sharon Parshley was absent; all other Board members were present.

2. Acceptance of September 8, 2014 Minutes

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** to accept the September 8, 2014 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and was **ADOPTED** by a 3 yes, 1 abstain vote. Tom Willis abstained.

3. Old Business

There was no Old Business discussed.

4. Appeals

4.1 Garland Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement of 7 units of both water and sewer due to a broken water line that broke causing excess water usage.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is that no abatement be granted to this request.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. A leak occurred in the water line between the street and the residence (under front yard).

2. The leak was in a section of pipe BEFORE the usage passed through the water meter.
3. Any leaked usage was not recorded by the water meter.

Mr. Garland was present and explained his abatement request. After questioning by the Board, it was determined that the leak occurred on a water line servicing a toilet. The water leaked did pass through the water meter.

Tom Willis **MOVED** to abate 7.5 units of sewer valued at \$46.80. The motion received a second and the motion was **ADOPTED** on a unanimous voice vote.

4.2 SSB Properties LLC Appeal

Steve Beaudoin was present and presented his abatement request.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation was to abate 21 units of water valued at \$98.07 and 43 units of sewer valued at \$268.32. The total of these is \$366.39.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. The actual usage for the June 2013 through July 2014 period is calculated:

June 2014 Meter Read	3433	Units
June 2013 Meter Read	- 3291	Units
Net Actual Usage	142	Units

2. The customer was billed for usage as follows:

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>
June 2013	21	21
Sept 2013	22	22
Dec 2013	0	22
March 2014	22	22
June 2014	<u>98</u>	<u>98</u>
Total Billed Usage	163 units	185 units

3. Overbilled usage is calculated:

	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>
Billed Usage	163 units	185 units
Actual Usage -	<u>142 units</u>	<u>- 142 units</u>
Overbilled Usage	21 units	43 units

Tom Willis **MOVED** to abate 50 units of water and sewer valued at \$545.50. The motion received a second and the motion was **ADOPTED** on a unanimous voice vote.

4.3 Moores Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement of 10 units of sewer due to a leaking hot water heater.

The Deputy City Manager's recommendation is to abate 9 units of sewer valued at \$56.16.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. A leak occurred and is verified by plumber's invoice.
2. The leaked usage did not enter the sewer collection system.
3. The leaked usage is estimated as follows:

Current Usage	16 units
Average Usage of Prior 4 Qtrs	- <u>7 units</u>
Estimated Leaked Usage	9 units

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** to abate 9 units of sewer fees valued at \$56.16. The motion received a second and was **ADOPTED** on a unanimous voice vote.

4.4. Donaldson Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement of excess sewer fees. The excess usage was the result of watering new trees that she planted on her property.

The recommendation of Deputy City Manager Cox is to grant a one-time abatement of 22 units of sewer valued at \$137.28, on the condition that the customer provide documentation of the purchase/installation of new trees at the service location.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. Customer states that increased usage has resulted from the watering of new trees on her property.
2. The estimated usage for tree watering was estimated as follows:

Current Usage	31 units
Average Usage of Prior 3 Qtrs	- <u>9 units</u>
Estimated Usage of Trees	22 units

Debra Donaldson was present and explained her abatement request. She also showed the Board a receipt for the trees she purchased and planted on her property.

Daniel Peterson **MOVED** to abate 22 units of sewer fees valued at \$137.28. The motion received a second and the motion was **ADOPTED** on a 3 yes and 1 no vote. Arthur Hoffman voted no to the motion.

4.5 Yerardi Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement for higher than normal usage as well as an investigation to explain the discrepancies in their meter readings.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is that no abatement be granted in response to this request.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. No leaks have been identified.
2. Both of the new meters installed have measured increased usage as compared to the readings of the previous meter. The first new meter was flow tested and found to be reading accurately.

John Yerardi was present and he explained his abatement request. After a lengthy discussion between the Board and Mr. Yerardi, Tom Willis **MOVED** to suspend action on the abatement pending additional monitoring by the water department of water usage at the service location. The motion received a second and was **ADOPTED** on a unanimous voice vote.

4.6 Historical Society Appeal

The appellant seeks an abatement of 59 units of water and sewer due to a leaking toilet.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is that no abatement be granted in response to this request.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

1. A toilet was found to be leaking. A repair was made and receipts for the repair were supplied.
2. The usage measured by the meter was received by the customer and the leaked usage did enter the sewer collections system.

Mr. Arthur Pelletier and Ms. Clelia Urcuioli were present and explained the Historical Society's abatement request. Questioning by the Board revealed that the Historical Society building is owned by the City of Rochester which the Historical Society rents for \$1.00 per year.

Arthur Hoffman **MOVED** to abate 25% of the billed amount equal to \$171.83 as a hardship abatement. The motion received a second and was **ADOPTED** on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Financials

There was no discussion on the Financial Statements.

6. Other

There was no other items brought forth for discussion

7. Adjournment

Tom Willis **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second and the motion was **ADOPTED** on a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 P.M.

Respectfully,

Blaine M. Cox
Deputy City Manager

BMC: sam