

Town of Exeter (NH) Water & Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC)  
Nowak Room, Town Offices, Exeter, NH

## Meeting Minutes

For Meeting of July 27, 2022

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Kelly on Wednesday July 27, 2022 at approximately 6:35 pm. Other Committee members present in person included Carl Wikstrom and Select Board representative Ms. Molly Cowan. Members Mark Fabian and Ben Mosher were in attendance via Zoom conferencing due to personal and health issues.

Representatives of the public were also in attendance in person and via Zoom call to discuss applicable abatement requests.

### 2. Water and Sewer Bill Abatement Requests

Four abatement requests were discussed by the Committee, as follows:

- a. 3 Spruce Street. The customer, Peter Finch, was in attendance. He was seeking an abatement on a recent water and sewer bill for increased usage from a failed landscaping soaker hose. Reportedly, no water from this leak entered the Town sewer system.

The Committee discussed the aspects of the request outlined in the application and assessed that unforeseeable, accidental usage had occurred but had been repaired. Mr. Kelly moved, and Mr. Wikstrom seconded, a motion to **recommend an ABATEMENT for 50% excess Water and full Sewer usage** of the average annual amount. This amounts to **\$43.16**. The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

The customer was alerted to the current Water and Sewer Abatement Policy that allows for one abatement per 10-year period.

- b. 15 Minuteman Lane. The customer, Mary Lou Lackey, was in Zoom attendance. She was seeking an abatement on a recent water and sewer bill for increased

usage from a failed refrigerator water line. Reportedly, no water from this leak entered the Town sewer system.

The Committee discussed the aspects of the request outlined in the application and assessed that unforeseeable, accidental usage had occurred but had been repaired. Mr. Kelly moved, and Mr. Wikstrom seconded, a motion to **recommend an ABATEMENT for 50% excess Water and full Sewer usage** of the average annual amount. This amounts to **\$472.19**. The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

The customer was alerted to the current Water and Sewer Abatement Policy that allows for one abatement per 10-year period.

- c. 27 Tremont Street. The customer, Tremont St. Apartments, was not in attendance. They were seeking an abatement on a recent water and sewer bill for increased usage from a failed hot water heater line. Reportedly, no water from this leak entered the Town sewer system.

The Committee discussed the aspects of the request outlined in the application and assessed that unforeseeable, accidental usage had occurred but had been repaired. Mr. Wikstrom moved, and Mr. Fabian seconded, a motion to **recommend an ABATEMENT for 80% excess Water and full Sewer usage** of the average annual amount. This amounts to **\$342.14**. The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

- d. 103 Front Street. The customer, Lori Ripa, was in Zoom attendance. She was seeking an abatement on a recent water and sewer bill for increased usage from a damaged landscaping irrigation line. Reportedly, the damage was caused by a landscaping company, and no water from this leak entered the Town sewer system.

The Committee discussed the aspects of the request outlined in the application and assessed that unforeseeable, accidental usage had occurred but had been repaired. Ms. Cowan moved, and Mr. Wikstrom seconded, a motion to **recommend an ABATEMENT for 50% excess Water and full Sewer usage** of the average annual amount. This amounts to **\$655.34**. The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

The customer was alerted to the current Water and Sewer Abatement Policy that allows for one abatement per 10-year period.

### **3. Regular Business**

#### a. Utility Operations

No information provided by town DPW.

#### b. Utility Financial Reports

Mr. Kelly discussed reports that had been previously distributed to the Committee by the Town Finance Department. A note was made of the higher-than-normal utility fund balances due to higher-than-expected water consumption over the past year. This was potentially due to COVID work-from-home directives and a generally home-based population since last fall.

### **4. New Business**

No new business conducted.

### **5. Other Business**

Mr. Kelly noted that Mark Fabian was embarking on a year-long sabbatical to Costa Rica with his family and would be temporarily leaving the Committee.

As Mark's departure leaves the Committee with four active members out of seven slots, attaining a meeting quorum may be difficult in the near future. Mr. Kelly noted that he will be discussing alternative abatement review procedures with Russ Dean.

### **6. Committee Calendar**

The Committee tentatively scheduled their next meeting for late September at some point, due to members schedules over the next few months. The actual date will depend on abatement request volume and some members' time constraints.

Mr. Kelly adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:15 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Bob Kelly  
Chair and Recording Secretary  
July 31, 2022