

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

## Meeting Minutes

For Meeting of February 15, 2023

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Kelly on Wednesday February 15, 2023 at approximately 6:55 pm. Other Committee members present in person included Carl Wikstrom, Ben Mosher, Alan Mangen (new member). Selectboard representative Ms. Molly Cowan was in attendance via Zoom conferencing due to 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. 24-26 Washington Street. The customer, Patrick Driscoll, was in attendance via Zoom conferencing. He was seeking an abatement on a recent water and sewer bill for increased usage from a failed water line at the foundation of one of the buildings on the property. 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. Mosher seconded, a motion to **recommend an ABATEMENT for 50% excess Water and full excess Sewer usage** of the average annual amount. This amounts to a calculated amount of **\$2,423**. The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

- b. 3 Drinkwater Road. The customer, Robert Smith, was in attendance. He was seeking an abatement on a recent water and sewer bill for increased usage from

a failed exterior hose bib 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 excess Sewer usage** of the average annual amount. This amounts to **\$714.78**. The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

- c. 45 Westside Drive. A representative of the customer was not in attendance. They were seeking an abatement on a recent water and sewer bill for increased usage from a leaking toilet in a remote part of the home.

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. Mosher moved, and Mr. Wikstrom seconded, a motion to **recommend an ABATEMENT for 50% excess Water and Sewer usage** of the average annual amount. This amounts to **\$198.67**. The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

- d. 11 Colcord Pond Drive. A representative of the customer was not in attendance. They were seeking an abatement on a recent water and sewer bill for increased usage from a leaking toilet. Reportedly, due to its location, the leak was not discovered by the customer. Town representatives performed the simple repair at the customer's request.

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. Mosher seconded, a motion to **recommend an ABATEMENT for 80% excess Water and Sewer usage** of the average annual amount. This amounts to **\$320.81**. The motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

The Committee recommended that the customer pay particular attention to this toilet as it appeared from the data download that it had been periodically leaking for quite a while.

### **3. Regular Business**

#### **a. Utility Operations**

An update to on-going projects, including the Squamscott River siphons, was provided to the Committee.

#### **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.

### **4. New Business**

Two new initiatives concerning the utility were brought to the Committee's attention by Mr. Kelly.

The Town has contracted with Underwood Engineers to complete an updated Rate Study. The last study and model update was conducted in 2016. Items of particular focus are the importance of deduct meters as well as a rate scale associated with these devices, typically used for lawn irrigation or pool filling activities. Preliminary information is expected within the next month or so; a draft model will hopefully be available for the Committee to review at their next meeting.

Mr. Kelly updated the Committee on the progress of our new groundwater source search. In 2019, several sites were assessed around town for the feasibility of expanding the Lary Lane treatment plant's groundwater sources from the current wells at Lary Lane, Gilman Lane, and the PEA Stadium. In 2021, \$1M was approved by Town Meeting to conduct more detailed assessments on selected well sites as well as complete transactions with applicable landowners towards securing long term access and protection to these sites. A warrant article for \$500,000 is on this year's ballot to conduct engineering permitting and potentially preliminary construction activities on a selected site, if the timing proves favorable. The Committee will be asked to weigh in on costs and viability once voting occurs in March for the additional funding.

### **5. Other Business**

No Other Business was conducted.

### **6. Committee Calendar**

The Committee tentatively scheduled their next meeting for mid-April due to members schedules over the next few months. The actual date will depend on abatement request volume and members' time constraints.

Mr. Kelly adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Bob Kelly  
Chair and Recording Secretary  
February 16, 2023