

**North Branch Fire District #1  
78 Dorr Fitch Road  
West Dover, VT. 05356**

**Phone: 802-464-7560**

**Fax: 802-464-3040**

**E-mail: [nbfd1@myfairpoint.net](mailto:nbfd1@myfairpoint.net)**

Minutes of the North Branch Fire District #1, Board of Abatement, December 9, 2019,

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Administrative Manager, Linda Holland.

**Members Present:** Cyndee Frere, Edward Barber and Daniel Facilla.

**Absent:** Thomas Ferrazza and Brendan Ryan.

**Also Present:** Melissa Baw, Brian Coleman, Mark Formel, Julie Lineberger, Kenneth Westby and Steven Montello.

Holland called for nominations for a Chairperson. Facilla nominated Frere to Chair the Abatement meeting. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**Minutes:** Facilla moved to accept the Minutes of June 3, 2019 as submitted. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**HI014/Melissa Baw & Brian Coleman:** Ms. Baw explained to the Board that on Friday July 19, 2019 she and Brian left their home to attend a family reunion in Connecticut. Before leaving Brian watered the outside plants and turned off the hose. The problem is that he did not turn off the faucet on the side of the house that fed the hose. According to eye-on-water the hose leaked a total of 3,766 gallons over the two day period. Facilla moved to abate \$143.31 for the gallonage that went into the ground. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously. (Note: this adjusts the current usage to \$1,293.75 plus \$415.78 for the bond).

**RT048/Julie Lineberger Representing Veronique Czechorowski:** Julie Lineberger, Trustee for the Veronique Czechorowski Revocable Living Trust came before the Board to request Abatement of some of the charges for Account #RT048. Ms. Lineberger was informed that the Board has been advised by Council that the lien for sewer charges attach to the served property, just like property taxes. Council advises that the Board send the bill to the new owner, and let him/her sort it out with his sellers.

**DO006/Kenneth Westby:** Mr. Westby is asking for an abatement of interest and penalties for bills mailed to his daughter's address. Holland stated that we need to reimburse \$69.25 in interest and \$146.57 in penalties for a total of \$215.82 and abate \$11.76 interest. Facilla moved to reimburse \$215.82 and abate 11.76. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**KW000/Kingswood HOA/Steven Montello:** Mr. Montello came before the Board with a photo of a leak, estimating Kingswood used 49,971 gallons over two days that did not enter the sewer system. Mr. Montello also states there were no residents on site during this period. The date the leak occurred indicates a use of 48,675 according to eye-on-water. Facilla moved to reduce the gallonage by 7,500 gallons charging \$15,259.25 for usage and \$4,902.80 for the bond. Total abatement is \$809.58. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**MV000K/Mark Formel:** Mr. Formel came before the Board to appeal his November 2019 bill due to the peaks that occur from time to time. On June 26<sup>th</sup> eye-on-water indicates a use of 1,545 gallons, July 23<sup>rd</sup> usage of 650 gallons and October 20<sup>th</sup> usage of 1,531 gallons, spikes totaling 3,726 gallons. Mr. Formel is requesting abatement for the spikes in use stating he does not have any leaks or running toilets. Facilla moved to go into deliberative session at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously. Facilla moved to come out of deliberative session at 7:05 p.m. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously. Frere explains that as a Board they are not able to abate and suggests that Mr. Formel keep bird dogging the eye-on-water. Facilla added that Mr. Formel must demonstrate how the water was used. Facilla explained to Mr. Formel that he or his wife need to be vigilant every day, watch the meter for a year. Mr. Formel stated that he would do the best he can to keep track.

**In House Errors:** Facilla moved to abate the following errors totaling \$3,810.24 as stated below. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

GS084.....	\$ 176.76	Previous Reading did not carry forward.
ST002X .....	\$ 762.26	Previous Reading did not carry forward.
AI001.....	\$ 514.21	Previous Reading did not carry forward.
DM048.....	\$ 5.00	Charged for a By-Pass he does not have.
RT106... ..	\$ 8.57	Credit did not apply to previous balance.
SY014.....	\$ 442.60	Missed By-Pass Reading.
SG002.....	\$ 336.68	Previous Reading did not carry forward.
NV015.....	\$1,564.16	Previous Reading did not carry forward.
		<b>Grand Total \$3,810.24</b>

**CV000A/Thomas Corell:** Mr. Corell is appealing his November 2019 bill for 44,055 gallons. Mr. Corell's cellular meter was installed by the plumber on November 6, 2018. However, the meter was not activated until May 8, 2019. In May of 2019 Mr. Corell received an estimated bill for 10,100 gallons and the bill prior to that for November of 2018 was also estimated. (The new cellular meter will store the information until it is activated.) Facilla moved to abate \$384.34 for the May 2019 estimated bill and charge Mr. Corell a usage amount of \$977.90 and the bond amount of \$314.20, a total of \$1,292.10. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**TC000/Timber Creek HOA:** Holland called Timber Creek HOA office to report a leak alert from the eye-on-water. Heather Bedard called back stating the hose was left running on the lawn at the Sugarhouse. Barber moved to reimburse \$254.74, the gallons that ran from the hose into the ground. Seconded by Facilla. Passed unanimously.

**ML004/Carl Sherman:** Mr. Sherman is writing in regards to his November 2019 sewer bill for 9,464 gallons. Mr. Sherman also notes that he and his wife, from the middle of June until the middle of September arrive at their West Dover home Thursday evenings and depart early Sunday morning. The Board reviewed the Green Mountain Power bills as well as the eye-on-water. Based on the evidence presented the Board cannot determine any abnormalities, but strongly suggests turning the water off when leaving the house. Based on the evidence Facilla moved to deny Mr. Sherman's request for a bill adjustment. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**MV007/Ben Potter:** Mr. Potter is requesting abatement for the water used to pressure wash his house and deck. Mr. Potter sent a photo of the meter and beginning meter reading of 41,931.87 and states the ending reading was 42,665.30. No other photos were submitted indicating the ending readings. Holland suggested to the Board, that if they gave an abatement/reimbursement that it be applied to the outstanding delinquent amount on this account. Facilla moved to deny as this is not an appropriate method to determine what was used to pressure wash. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**GS069/Joseph Decilveo:** This cellular meter was installed August 31, 2018 and not activated until November 4, 2019. The meter will store the information until activated. Facilla moved to abate usage of \$198.98 and bond of \$63.93, a total of \$262.91 based on previous estimated bills and charge Mr. Decilveo a usage of \$89.02 and bond of \$28.60 for a total bill currently due of \$117.62. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**ML013/Scarfogliero, John:** Mr. Scarfogliero wrote the Board informing them that during a power outage at the end of November 2018 he received a call from the North Branch stating he had a large amount of water running through the sewer. At that time the Board could not make a decision due to the lack of information provided. Mr. Scarfogliero has written, quote "The interior tank ball and flush valve for the toilet bowl and some other interior tank parts had to be replaced. Water apparently was running through the tank and bowl which is why there was such a high demand on our meter on the house". The Board reviewed the eye-on-water and it verified that the water came to the plant to be treated. Barber moved to deny Mr. Scarfogliero's request as the water entered the municipal treatment facility and had to be treated. Seconded by Facilla. Passed unanimously.

**SD006/Stephen Berg:** Mr. Berg is appealing the balance of his May 2019 bill for 13,554 gallons. Mr. Berg has paid \$70.00 toward the \$362.84 bill leaving a balance of \$292.84 plus interest and penalties. Facilla moved that based on the review of Mr. Berg's eye-on-water account the unit did use the gallonage, so the request is denied. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

**SG002c/Richard Meduski:** An e-mail from Stephen Nick, caretaker for Mr. Meduski, stating the water to this building has been shut off for several years. The building is currently used to house equipment. The Board reviewed the eye-on-water for this account and found zero usage. Facilla moved to abate \$110.99 and bill the Meduski's the minimum payment of \$79.28. Seconded by Barber.

**Other Appeals:** None.

Frere adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,  
Administrative Manager

cc: C. Frere, T. Ferrazza, D. Facilla, B. Ryan, E. Barber, C. Pappas, M. Robinson, L. Vogel, H. Terhune, C. Sawyers, W. Blumenthal, R. Meduski, T. Waldron, M. Baw, B. Coleman, J. Lineberger, S. Montello, T. Corell, K. Westby, Timber Creek HOA, C. Sherman, B. Potter, M. Formel, J. Decilveo, J. Scarfogliero, S. Berg and the Deerfield Valley News.

Posted: North Branch Fire District #1, Wastewater Treatment Facility & Administrations Building. Dover Town Office.