

**North Branch Fire District #1
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Minutes of the North Branch Fire District #1, Board of Abatement, December 12, 2016.

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Administrative Manager, Linda Holland.

Members Present: Thomas Ferrazza, Cyndee Frere and Daniel Facilla.

Absent: Hobart Terhune and Edward Barber.

Also Present: Adam Levine, Christopher Broderick and Linda Holland.

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

Minutes: Ferrazza moved to approve the Minutes of June 1, 2016 as submitted. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously. Facilla abstained.

Facilla reminded the Board that they may abate in whole or in part taxes, interest or collection fees accruing to the Fire District in the following cases:

1. Taxes of persons who have died insolvent;
2. Taxes of persons who have removed from the state;
3. Taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and collection fees;
4. Taxes in which there is manifest error or a mistake;
5. Taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.

KW061/John Chadwick/Meter Reading Error: Ferrazza moved to abate \$1,655.22 due to an incorrect meter reading. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

MS002EX/Mount Snow/In house error: Ferrazza moved to reimburse Mount Snow \$7,019.11 due to an in house error. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

RT019/Twice Blessed, Inc.: On June 1, 2016 this matter was tabled until the new meter was installed and read at a 30 day and 60 day interval. The new cell meter was installed on September 6, 2016. Ferrazza moved to have the owner create a one year history to figure out what may be abated. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

RT055 g/Mount Snow Market Place/Adam Levine: Levine explained that this meter uses about 2,000 gallons in a six month period. This billing however is for 61,000 gallons. The meter was read by the operational crew on September 14, 2016 and the reading was 154,000. On October 25, 2016 Holland rechecked the meter with Mr. Levine and the meter read 156,000, an increase of 2,000 gallons. Holland and Mr. Levine checked the restroom and basement searching for leaks or condensation and found nothing. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Levine's request based on the fact that he cannot prove the water did not come to the treatment facility. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

EC000/Dover Watch Owner's Association/Christopher Broderick: Dover Watch Owner's Association installed the new cellular meter on May 16, 2016. The reading for the November 2016 bill totaled \$1,512.30 for the use of 79,579 gallons. Holland had printed out a usage history dating back to May of 2009 and the highest reading was 80,400 gallons due to a frozen pipe that burst. Mr. Broderick has attached the bills from Green Mountain Power as well as a document titled "Dover Watch Owners' Association, Inc. Sewer Fees". Ferrazza moved to revisit this matter in six months, on the new cellular meter that is 100% accurate. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously. The cellular meter replaced a 40 year old meter.

ST002S/Shelov, Stephen: Dr. Shelov wrote that he had sent Dwight from Dutch Properties to see if there is any leakage and he found none. Dr. Shelov also states that occasionally they had a running toilet, but that was fixed. The water usage for the May 2016 bill was 33,900 gallons. Ferrazza moved to deny Dr. Shelov's request because there is no documentation that the water did not come to the treatment plant. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

GS201/Spaight, David: Mr. Spaight wrote the Board stating the painters had power washed his home, likely driving up the sewer bill. The painters stripped the old finish from the deck as well as the exterior of the entire home. The November sewer bill was for 32,296 gallons at a cost of \$613.74. Holland had provided the Board with various pressure washer PSIs and GPMs. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Spaight based on the lack of supporting information. Seconded by Frere. Passed two in favor and one no. Note: Facilla agrees that 2 GPM is usually used in this area and requests further information.

MV000C/Shafer, Jerome: Mr. Shafer is respectfully requesting that all late charges be abated as the delinquent letter is the first notice he received regarding his sewer charges. Mr. Shafer is a retired person on a fixed income and makes every effort to pay all bills in a timely manner to avoid penalties and interest. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Shafer's request. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

DR081A/Phelps, Richard: Howard Phelps wrote the Board stating he does the finances for his 94 year old dad. Mr. Richard Phelps wears hearing aids but still has a hard time hearing things. Mr. Phelps replaced two toilets and has installed the new cellular meter. Mr. Richard Phelps requests that the Board base his last water bill of \$1,147.82 on his

prior use history. Ferrazza moved to reimburse Mr. Richard Phelps \$917.43 due to hardship. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

VS021/Davey, Paul: Mr. Davey writes that he was very surprised when he received his May 2006 usage bill in the amount of \$1,955.79 for 92,279 gallons. The letter goes on to state the problem was a leaky flapper valve in the toilet, which has since been repaired. Ferrazza moved to deny this request because the water came to the treatment facility. Seconded Frere. Passed unanimously.

JR006I/Greenbaum, Paul S.: Mr. Greenbaum wrote the Board stating he was quite surprised with the most recent invoice in the amount of \$524.50 for 27,600 gallons of water. Mr. Greenbaum states that although he occasionally rents the home and it has an outdoor hot tub, the usage has been consistently lower than the recent statement. Mr. Greenbaum has checked his home for leaky faucets, toilets and other plumbing to insure there are no leaks. Frere moved to have Mr. Greenbaum install a cellular meter and create a two year history. No second. Motion Withdrawn. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Greenbaum's request because there is no information to support his request for an adjustment. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

GS109/Newman, James: Mr. Newman wrote the Board regarding his May 2016 bill in the amount of \$3,617.87 for 170,700 gallons. Holland had printed out a "Meter History" and a copy of the bill. Frere moved to deny Mr. Newman's request due to the lack of supporting evidence for the Board to review. Second by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

GS143/Guajardo, Adalberto & Leslie: The Guajardo's wrote the Board asking them to consider a reduction in the unusually large water bill they received in November 2016. The letter goes on to state that "unfortunately we discovered that one of our toilets was left running due to a bad flap. The result was over 100,000 gallons of water used and a current water bill of \$1,684.00". Ferrazza moved to deny the Guajardo's request because the water came to the treatment facility to be treated. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

MV004/Greco, Kevin/Created a two year history: Mr. Greco wrote appealing his November 2014 bill for 65,740 gallons at a cost of \$954.75. The Board reviewed Mr. Greco's history on the radio read meter and found that after the November 2014 billing the meter appears to run fine for the next four billing periods. The Fire District has no records of this meter coming in for repairs. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Greco's request based on the lack of information presented. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

GS020/Rothenberg, Susan/Created a two year history: Ms. Rothenberg received estimated bills for November 2013 and May of 2014. Ms. Rothenberg has created a two year history on a radio read meter that was installed on May 20, 2014 and has recently (9/23/16) installed the cellular meter. Based on the two year history, at the then current rates Ferrazza moved to reimburse Ms. Rothenberg \$412.84. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

FME03/Newman, Dave: Mr. Newman wrote asking the Board for an adjustment of his current sewer bill. Based on his usage history the most water he used was approximately 6,000 gallons. The November 2016 bill shows a usage of 16,200 gallons for a total of \$307.86. Mr. Newman states that he believes the high volume is due to the painting of the building this summer. It was a three or four month project where the painter washed the building and cleaned his equipment daily. Frere moved to table this until June 2017 and requests tangible proof such as painter bills or other supportive information. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

Other Appeals: None.

Frere adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,
Administrative Manager

cc: H. Terhune, D. Facilla, E. Barber, T. Ferrazza, C. Frere, J. Chadwick, Mount Snow, M.J. Finnegan, A. Levine, S. Shelov, D. Spaight, J. Shafer, R. Phelps, P. Davey, Dover Watch Owners, P. Greenbaum, J. Newman, L. Guajardo, K. Greco, S. Rotherberg, Deerfield Valley News & Brattleboro Reformer.

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