

**North Branch Fire District #1
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Minutes of the North Branch Fire District #1, Board of Abatement, December 4, 2018.

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Administrative Manager, Linda Holland.

Members Present: Thomas Ferrazza, Cyndee Frere and Karl Braunbach.

Absent: Edward Barber and Brendan Ryan.

Also Present: Shelia Joyce-Albano, Kevin Joyce, Christopher Broderick, Kim and Steven Montello, Robin Stern, James Newman, Rebecca Snow and Linda Holland.

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

Ferrazza moved to go into deliberative session at 7:10 p.m. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

In House Errors/HI036, SY014 and SEP09: Ferrazza moved to abate HI036, \$651.86 SY014, \$147.52 and SEP09, \$365.80 a grand total of \$1,165.18. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

CC004/Joyce-Albano, Shelia: Mrs. Albano is appealing her May bill totaling \$710.45. The high usage is due to a faucet on the outside of the house that leaked as the snow melted away from it. Braunbach moved to adjust the usage and bond fees for the May 2018 billing period based on an average use of 13,250 gallons and reimburse Mrs. Albano the difference. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously. Note :
 $13,250 \text{ gallons} \div 1,000 = 13.25 \times \text{rate of } \$20.18 = \$267.39 \times 13.80\% \text{ bond} = \$36.90.$
Total usage \$267.39 + Bond \$36.90 = \$304.29. To be reimbursed \$406.16.

KW000/Kingswood/Montello & Stern: Kingwoods By-Pass meters were installed by Mountain Plumbing & Heating on June 19, 2018 as indicated in a copy of the invoice. However, the Endpoint install date was October 16, 2018 fourteen days after the meters were read for the November 2018 billing. Mr. Montello is asking for an adjustment of 125,000 gallons used between the June 19th installation and the October 16, Endpoint installation. Ferrazza moved to deduct 125,000 gallons from the Kingswood November 2018 bill. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously. Note: Original bill is for 997,663 gallons – 125,000 gallons = 872,663 $\div 1,000 = 872.66 \times \text{use rate of } \$27.15 = \$23,692.80 \times \text{bond rate } 13.67\% = \$3,238.81.$

Total usage \$23,692.80 + Bond \$3,238.81 = \$26,931.61.

FS000X/Seasons/Montello & Stern: Seasons By-Pass meters were installed on June 19, 2018 by Mountain Plumbing & Heating as indicated on a copy of the invoice. However, the Endpoint install date was November 7, 2018; six days after the meters were read for the November 2018 billing. Braunbach moved to deduct 40,000 gallons for the By-Pass meter at Seasons from 6/19/18 to 10/1/18. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously. Ferrazza moved to reduce the bill by 37,400 gallons due to filling the exterior pool on May 14, 2018. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously. Mr. Montello also requested an adjustment of 33,847 gallons for a tank over flow during a power outage. Ferrazza moved to split the difference and deduct 15,000 gallons based on the usage chart from Beacon. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously. On October the tanks at Seasons drained due to an open pipe. Approximately 150,000 gallons went out onto the ground. Ferrazza moved to deduct the 150,000 gallons from the Seasons bill. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

Current gallonage/Nov. 2018 bill.....	1,410,185
Less (tank overflow on Oct. 1, 2018).....	150,000
Less (to fill exterior pool May 14, 2018).....	37,400
Less (power outage tank over flow).....	15,000
<u>Less (deduction of By Pass meter as of Oct 1, 2018...)</u>	<u>40,000</u>

Gallonage currently due.....1,167,785

$1,167,785 \div 1,000 = 1,167.79$ x use rate of \$27.15 = \$31,705.36 x bond rate 13.67% = \$4,334.12. **Grand total due: \$36,093.48.**

Abate \$7,426.81

Montello stated that there was a leak at Building E as well as Building G. These leaks were discovered by Matchpoint and they believe they have existed for years. The Board asked for a continuance regarding the leaks discovered by Matchpoint until more information is available.

GS109/Newman, James: Mr. Newman had a bill in 2016 for 170,170 gallons and has since created his two year history. Ferrazza moved that based on his average gallons of 13,260, the Board will charge Mr. Newman \$244.91 for use and \$36.12 for the bond, a total of \$281.03 and abate \$3,336.84 and the associated interest and penalty. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

EC000/Dover Watch Owners Association/Christopher Broderick: Mr. Broderick is appealing the Dover Watch bill of May 2014, indicating a use of 80,400 gallons. The bill was in the amount of \$1,399.62. Ferrazza moved to reimburse Dover Watch Owners Association \$659.00. Seconded by Karl. Passed unanimously. Mr. Broderick would like this amount applied to his current bill in the amount of \$2,622.11.

AL006/Nick Simeone: Mr. Simeone writes the Board stating he received a call from Suburban Propane in regards to his home at 24 Blue Brook Road. The Propane driver reported that water was gushing from underneath the garage door. Mr. Simeone has attached his previous bills, the police report and his usage history. Based on the

information provided Ferrazza moved to abate \$605.06 from Mr. Simeone's November 2018 bill. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

CV000A/Thomas Corell: After carefully reviewing the attached electric bills and the usage history Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Corell's request because the usage is in line with other years. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

VO004B/Nielsen, Aimee: Ms. Nielsen wrote the Board explaining that she does not leave things running and always checks everything before she leaves. Attached were electric bills for the period in question as well as a usage history chart. Based on the evidence provided, Braunbach moved to abate 6,000 gallons from Ms. Nielsen's bill. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously. New bill will be \$38.01 for usage and \$5.20 for the bond, a total of \$43.21. Amount to abate is \$185.16.

GS052/Steven Simon: Mr. Simon wrote the Board explaining the house was empty during the time the gallons appear on the Beacon system. (Between April 21st. and April 25th.) Mr. Simon includes his power bills, propane bills, Lane Plumbing Invoices and Health Care bills for Surgery, between the above dates. Based on Mr. Simon's history and information provided, Ferrazza moved to abate \$485.00. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

GS095/Susan Lieberman/Naomi Lieberman Bush: Ferrazza states that we have heard this case repeatedly with no new information, so this is the final denial and it will not be considered beyond this point. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

BX047/Steven Schacter: Mr. Schacter received his November 2018 bill in the amount of \$2,119.98 for 90,191 gallons. After reviewing the attached electric bills and the usage history for this home, Ferrazza moved to abate 29,000 gallons. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously. New usage bill \$1,661.31 + bond \$227.10 grand total \$1,888.41. Abate \$231.57.

MV000K/Charlie Biondo: Mr. Biondo writes the Board stating his fall bills have been lower in the past. The letter goes on to state that the house had tenants living there the whole time. Mr. Biondo installed the cellular meter on May 2, 2018. At that time the meter started at zero and on November 4th, when checked the meter had used 38,975 gallons. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Biondo because his meter was read on October 3, 2018 and he was billed for 34,899 gallons. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

DGC02/Bill Merrell: Mr. Merrell is appealing his November 2018 bill in the amount of \$642.41 for 20,816 gallons. The Board read Mr. Merrell's letter, reviewed his electric use and looked at his usage history. Based on the usage history, Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Merrell's request for an adjustment of this bill. Seconded by Braunbach. Passed unanimously.

Other Appeals: None.

Frere adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,
Administrative Manager

cc: E. Barber, T. Ferrazza, C. Frere, B. Ryan, K. Braunbach, C. Biondo, S. Schacter, S. Lieberman, S. Simon, A. Nielsen, N. Simeone, T. Corell, Dover Watch Home Owners, Kingswood Home Owners, Seasons Home Owners, Robin Stern, J. Newman, Shelia Joyce-Albano, B. Merrell.

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