

UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
June 8, 2015
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel Peterson, Chairman
Arthur Hoffman
Shawn Libby
Thomas H. Willis, Jr

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, Deputy City Manager
Lisa Clark, Office Manager

MINUTES

1. Call to order :

Daniel Peterson call the meeting to order at 5:30PM. All board members were present.

2. Acceptance of the May 11, 2015 Minutes

Arthur Hoffman motioned to accept the May 11, 2015 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Thomas Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Appeals

3.1 Appeal #1 - The appellant, Michael Powers (not present) seeks an abatement of sewer fees due to leaking hot water tank.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is to abate 45 Units of sewer valued at \$280.80.

The above recommendation is based on the following findings:

The appellant does not dispute the meter readings.

The appellant is responsible for undetected water leaks on property.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (a) Usage on the current Invoice is | 87 Units |
| (b) Average usage of previous 4 quarters | <u>42 Units</u> |
| (c) Estimated leaked Usage | 45 Units |

Value of 45 Units of Sewer at the current sewer rate of \$6.24 = \$280.80.

Arthur Hoffman made a motion to abate 45 Units of sewer fees valued at \$280.80 provided that proof of water heater replacement is supplied to the Utility Billing Office. The motion was seconded by Shawn Libby. The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Appeal #2 – The appellant, Kimberly Sutton (not present) seeks an abatement of water and sewer fees due to a water meter break.

Deputy City Manager Cox's recommendation is to abate 51 Units of sewer valued at \$318.24 after confirmation from park owner that meter was replaced.

The above recommendation is based on the following findings:

The appellant does not dispute the meter readings.

The appellant is responsible for undetected water leaks on property.

(d) Usage on current invoice 70 Units

(e) Average usage of previous 4 quarters 19 Units

(f) Estimated leaked Usage 51 Units

Value of 51 Units of Sewer at the current sewer rate of \$6.24 = \$318.24

Shawn Libby, as owner of the Moose Lane mobile home park, confirmed the meter was replaced and excused himself from the vote.

Arthur Hoffman made a motion to abate 51 Units of sewer fees valued at \$318.24. The motion was seconded by Thomas Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

3.3 Appeal #3 - The appellant, Beatrice Brochu (not present) seeks an abatement of sewer fees due to outside spicket left on.

Deputy City Manager Cox recommends no abatement on this request.

The above recommendation is based on the following findings:

The appellant does not dispute the meter readings.

The appellant does not claim a plumbing failure causing leak.

The appellant is responsible for undetected water leaks on property.

Thomas Willis made a motion to deny the request for abatement. The motion was seconded by Daniel Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

3.4 Appeal #4 –The appellant, Gregory Ward (not present) seeks an abatement of sewer fees associated with his December 2014 and March 2015 invoice.

Deputy City Manager Cox’s recommendation is to abate the 16 units of sewer fees for the invoice dated 3/27/15. This abatement should be pending confirmation that repairs were made. Confirmation can be made by next scheduled meter reading.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

The appellant does not dispute the meter readings.

The appellant is responsible for undetected water leaks on property.

Per Section 17.20(a) the aggrieved user must notify the billing office in writing of the contested bill prior to next payment due date. The 12/17/14 invoice does meet this requirement for abatement.

(g) Usage on the current 3/27/15 Invoice is 26 Units

(h) Average usage of previous 4 quarters 10 Units (excludes 12/17/14 invoice)

(i) Estimated leaked Usage 16 Units

Value of 16 Units of Sewer at the current sewer rate of \$6.24 = \$99.84

Art Hoffman made a motion to deny the abatement for the December 2014 invoice, and to table the March abatement until the completion of the next two billing cycles in order to establish an average use. Appellant is to pay current bills and interest accrued to be waived when March appeal is resolved. The motion was seconded by Thomas Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

3.5 Appeal #5 – The appellant, Douglas Colwell (not present) seeks an abatement of sewer fees due an outside spicket. This appeal was previously denied. Deputy City Manager Cox’s recommends no abatement or action on this requests.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

The appellant does not dispute the meter readings.

The appellant is responsible for undetected water leaks on property.

Decision letter sent from UAB meeting held April 20, 2015. Appeal was Denied.

Per section 17.20(b) of the City of Rochester Ordinance, “the Utility Advisory Board shall be final, except that the City Manager shall have the authority to veto or modify any action of the UAB. Aggrieved parties shall be allowed only one appeal per claim.

No actions were taken at this meeting.

3.6 Appeal #6 – The appellant Winifred Duggan (not present) seeks an abatement of water fees due to a spicket left on outside.

Deputy City Manager Cox recommends no abatement on this request.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

The appellant does not dispute the meter readings.

The appellant does not claim that her plumbing failed causing a system leak.

The appellant is responsible for undetected water leaks on property.

Arthur Hoffman made a motion to deny the request for abatement. The motion was seconded by Daniel Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

3.7 Appeal #7 –The appellant, Walter Brown (not present) seeks an abatement of sewer fees associated with a leaking pipe at the property.

Deputy City Manager Cox’s recommendation is to abate the 70 units of sewer fees valued at \$436.80.

The above recommendation is based upon the following findings:

The appellant does not dispute the meter readings.

The appellant is responsible for undetected water leaks on property.

(a) Usage on the current on invoice is 99 Units

(b) Average usage of previous 4 quarters 29 Units

(c) Estimated leaked Usage 70 Units

Value of 70 Units of sewer at the current sewer rate of \$6.24 = \$436.80

Thomas Willis made a motion to approve the abatement in the amount of \$436.80 provided that an invoice or receipt is supplied to the Utility Billing Office as proof of a repair. The motion was seconded by Arthur Hoffman. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Financial Reports** – The board reviewed all financial reports

5. **Adjournment** -

Daniel Peterson made a motion for adjournment at 6:24. The motion was seconded by Thomas Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, Office Manager Rochester DPW.