

Water and Sewer Commission
Minutes August 9, 2012
Approved September 13, 2012

**Water and Sewer Commission
Municipal Building
15 St. Paul St.**

**Minutes from August 9, 2012
Main Meeting Room**

Water and Sewer members in attendance:

Eric Atstupenas, Charlie Sawyer, John Parmentier and Tom Devlin.

Also present:

DPW Director Mike Suprenant

Recording Secretary: Amy Sutherland

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting for the Water and Sewer Commission at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call was taken.

The Commission reviewed the abatement forms which were presented.

Simmons, 1 State Street:

The Commission is in receipt of paperwork for 1 State Street.

The application number was 2012-09.

The resident was present. The resident explained that their water is from Woonsocket and the sewer is paid in Blackstone. The Commission reviewed the water/sewer assessment dated June 11, 2012. Enclosed in this packet was a copy of the City of Woonsocket bill dated May 4, 2012.

The Commission reviewed the application.

Member Parmentier wanted to know when another meter can be installed at this possible location to alleviate this situation.

Member Devlin felt that we need to consult a plumber before we start changing the meters out.

On a motion made by Charlie Sawyer and seconded by Tom Devlin, the Commission voted unanimously to abate Mr. & Mrs. Simmons for 1 State Street in the amount of 169.02.

37 Bellingham Rd.

The Commission reviewed the application for abatement. The application abatement number is 2012-06.

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The DPW Director indicated that his department did do a leak test and found that there was no leak. The water did go through the meter.

The Commission had no further documents in front of them to justify abatement.
The DPW did not recommend abatement.

On a motion made by Tom Devlin and seconded by Eric Atstupenas, the Commission voted unanimously to deny abatement for 37 Bellingham Road.

108 Federal St.:

The Commission is in receipt of the application for abatement 2012-12.

The resident is looking to be abated \$371.05.

The Commission was provided with a history of usage. This was dated May 24, 2012.

The Commission questions if there is a leak.

The DPW Director indicated that a technician went to the residence and checked the head. The head cannot be just changed since the ert number would change. It was further explained that the four readings were correct and the fifth was high.

If the meter is faulty then we replace it at the Towns expense.

Member Parmentier noted that meters typically under read and do not overread. This needs to be tested.

The Commission informed the resident that the installation of new meter is \$175.00.

The fee to get the meter tested is \$100.00.

The resident will have the meter tested.

Member Parmentier wanted to know if the resident had anything replaced.

The resident indicated no.

On a motion made by Tom Devlin and seconded by Eric Atstupenas, the Commission voted unanimously to have the meter tested at 108 Federal Street at the expense of the resident.

29 Federal Street, Blakeney:

The Commission is in receipt of an abatement application 2012-07. This was dated May 21, 2012.

The resident is looking to be abated for the sewer bill in the amount of \$173.38.

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The resident was present and explained that their 4ft. by 27ft. foot round pool was filled and the gallons were charged on the sewer bill. The resident is looking to have the 17,200 gallons abated on the sewer bill.

The resident provided a copy of the last bill which was dated May 11, 2012.

On a motion made by Tom Devlin, and seconded by John Parmentier the Commission voted unanimously to abate \$137.07 to 29 Federal Street.

12 Huntington Ave:

The Commission is in receipt of an application for abatement from Brenda Standing who resides at 12 Huntington Ave. The application abatement form number is 2012-11.

The resident communicated that she receives water service from Woonsocket, RI. The Town of Blackstone automatically charges for the sewer service.

The resident provided a copy of the most recent water bill from Woonsocket with the accurate usage.

The Commission reviewed the information provided.

On a motion made by Tom Devlin, and seconded by Eric Atstupenas, the Commission voted unanimously to abate \$178.32 to Brenda Standing who resides at 12 Huntington Ave.

191 Farm Street:

The Commission is in receipt of an application for abatement from Vincent Gadoury who resides at 191 Farm Street. The application for abatement number is 2012-08.

The applicant communicated that they have sewer in the Town of Blackstone but water from Woonsocket.

The resident provided a water bill from the City of Woonsocket dated May 4, 2012.

The Commission reviewed the information provided.

On a motion made by Tom Devlin, and seconded by Eric Atstupenas, the Commission voted unanimously to abate \$155.97 to Vincent Gadoury who resides at 191 Farm Street.

126 King Street:

The Commission is in receipt of an extensive packet of information provided by Ms. Lunny who resides at 126 King Street.

The resident was not able to attend the meeting due to work obligations, but she provided a written letter dated July 22, 2012 which was entered into the record. The letter noted that the

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Town of Blackstone's Unipay payment system gave an error message when she was trying to pay the bill.

On a motion made by Eric Atstupenas and seconded by Tom Devlin, the Commission voted unanimously to abate all penalties and interest from November 4, 2011 for 123 King Street.

Water Rate Study:

The Commission will be setting up workshops to discuss the rate study. The Commission will be seeking for information from Woonsocket to make any determinations.

1995-2000 Delinquent Bills:

The DPW Director indicated that letters have gone out to those residents with delinquent bills from 1995-2000. It is going to be difficult to collect this since so much time has lapsed. The Commission discussed that these residents need to get their bill current.

Mike indicated that none of the properties have been liened since the town did not accept the policy and law pertaining to lienning until recently.

Member Sawyer would like any resident who is abating a bill to come to a workshop. He does not feel it is appropriate to have them on the television for other residents to see.

There was a suggestion that the tax collector and possible town counsel here.

The Commission is clear that their goal is to clear the books and be fair.

The Commission will be setting up site visit workshop. The date and time will be determined.

Member Sawyer informed the Commission that he spoke to the Board of Selectmen about the Well #8 along with the wellhouse and potential work on Well #9. He recommended that a workshop meeting be set up.

Weston and Sampson will continue to be on board as a consultant for the town.

There will be discussion with North Smithfield about the metering in North Smithfield.

The Commission wants to make sure that the workers for the DPW have the correct licensing.

Secretary Payment:

On a motion made by Charlie Sawyer and seconded by Eric Atstupenas, the Commission voted unanimously to sign the secretary payment.

Minutes:

On a motion made by Eric Atstupenas and seconded by John Parmentier, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes from July 12, 2012.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

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ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland