

Randolph Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2015

Randolph Town Hall – 7 Summer Street

Present: Members John Lutz, Mary Hardy, Don Maynard and Tom Schersten (Suzanne Pickett was absent), Water/Wastewater Superintendent Elizabeth Walker, Utility Billing Monique Sanders, Town Engineer Mardee Sanchez and Public Pierre LaFrance, Clint Loomis and Jack Cowdrey.

Chair Schersten called to order: 8:30 AM.

1. Public to be heard – None.

2. Jack Cowdrey – Abatement request at 77 North Main Street

Mr. Cowdrey explained that he had an elderly tenant that did not realize her toilet was running and that there was no tenant downstairs from her that might have been able to hear it. His usual joint bill for the building is around \$700 and this time it is nearing \$5,000.

Maynard/Lutz moved to recommend the Town Manager reject the abatement request pursuant to the relevant provisions of the abatement policy [§IV and VI(C)]. The motion passed 4-0-0.

3. Pierre LaFrance – Abatement request at Lake Champagne Campground

Mr. LaFrance explained that he had a water pipe within the campground's distribution system that was leaking and that the water did not enter the public wastewater system. He is also not on the Randolph Village public water system so is only looking for a wastewater bill abatement. The most recent bill was affected but the next bill will be also.

Lutz/Maynard moved to recommend to the Town Manager that the abatement request for this bill be abated 157 hundred cubic feet (HCF). The motion passed 4-0-0.

Mr. LaFrance explained the second part of his request, which is to have the amount of the abatement refunded (he has already paid the bill in full) instead of applied as a credit to his account. As his business is seasonal, it would be better to not have to wait for the money and also to be able to close out his accounting for the year. Maynard mentioned that it didn't seem reasonable for the Town to be able to hold on to that much money and earn interest on it for 6 months.

With respect to the next bill, Sanders explained that the meter was read on October 25, right before the campground was shutdown, and the usage was 218 HCF. The average use for the billing period is 44 HCF, which would result in a \$494 bill. This could be deducted from the amount of the abatement for this this current bill.

Maynard/Lutz moved to recommend to the Town Manager that he pre-emptively grant a 174-HCF abatement of the next bill. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Hardy/Maynard moved to recommend to the Town Manager that the net amount of the abatement be refunded. The motion passed 3-1-0, with Maynard voting against.

4. Clint Loomis – Abatement request at 9 Summer Street

Mr. Loomis explained that there was a fire overnight on Summer Street and that caused black water in the system. As such, he spent about 1-1½ hours purging his plumbing and appliances. Walker indicated that next time he should just run an outside hose and not run every faucet, toilet, shower, washer, etc. The additional usage will show up in the next bill. The average usage for that billing period is 20 HCF.

Maynard/Lutz moved to recommend to the Town Manager that the abatement request be granted. The motion passed 4-0-0.

5. Jennifer Beaudin – Additional water and wastewater allocations for 1-bedroom apartment at 190 Fish Hill Road

Ms. Beaudin was not present but the Committee felt the application was straightforward enough to take action on.

Hardy/Schersten moved to recommend to the Selectboard that it grant allocations of 135 gallons per day (gpd) and 140 gpd for water and wastewater, respectively, with the associated fees of \$357.75 and \$700. The motion passed 4-0-0.

6. John Scheck – Abatement request for 29 Merchants Row

Mr. Scheck submitted a letter explaining that his 4-inch water service connection going to his commercial block froze in mid-March. The valve was closed and when it was opened again after it thawed, it was leaking. The valve was shut off and has been since then. Repairing the valve, which is under the sidewalk, is the Town's responsibility. As the commercial block has another service connection, Mr. Scheck does not need this connection. The Water Department will be putting in a blind flange on the line in lieu of a physical disconnection at the water main. Mr. Scheck is requesting an abatement of the minimum billings he has received since March.

Maynard/Lutz moved to recommend to the Town Manager that the abatement request be granted for two quarters because water was not available due to valve failure which is the Town's responsibility and that the amount of the abatement be credited to the other account for the building. The motion passed 4-0-0.

7. Manganese in Pearl Street Well

The Committee discussed the situation and what should be done to begin looking for a new water supply to replace the Pearl Street well. Maynard said he will look through his stuff from when we solicited bids for the Pinnacle wellfield and draft up a scope of services for the request for proposals to explore a new water supply by the North Reservoir.

It was also suggested that a new article be put in the paper with updated information on the manganese issue. Walker said she would contact *The Herald*.

8. Systems' Updates

Walker overviewed her handout (attached).

9. Minutes

Lutz/Hardy moved to accept the minutes of October 9, 2015 as written. The motion passed 4-0-0.

10. Old/new business

The next meeting was scheduled for December 18, 2015.

11. Adjournment

Lutz/Maynard moved to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0-0 and the meeting ended at 10:03 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: as written as edited

Mardee Sanchez

on _____