

**North Branch Fire District #1
78 Dorr Fitch Road
West Dover, VT. 05356**

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Minutes of the North Branch Fire District #1, Board of Abatement, December 3, 2015.

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Administrative Manager, Linda Holland.

Members Present: Thomas Ferrazza, Edward Barber and Larry Feldstein.

Absent: Daniel Facilla, Cyndee Frere and Hobart Terhune.

Also Present: Angelo Sorvillo, Jason and Heidi Denyou, via phone Coleen Gewirtz and Linda Holland.

Holland asked for nominations to Chair the meeting. Ferrazza nominated Feldstein to Chair the meeting. Seconded by Barber. Nominations closed. Passed unanimously.

Minutes: Tabled until the next meeting in June 2016.

Errors and Omissions: TR020B/Wilkins, Taylor: Ferrazza moved to abate \$595.74 from Mr. Wilkins bill due to incorrect billing. Seconded by Feldstein. Passed unanimously.

SY009/Schuster, Abraham & Faith: A "Thank You" letter stating the Board's decision made a big difference for them.

VO002B/Sorvillo, Angelo: Mr. Sorvillo stated that his unit has been for sale since 2004 and has been vacant with the water turned off. As a result there has not been any water usage and Mr. Sorvillo feels the estimated bill in the amount of \$192.00 for usage and \$22.62 for the bond is excessive. Feldstein moved to have Holland adjust the figures based on the minimum bill. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously. (Note: Adjusted as follows: Total usage due for May and November 2015 is \$40.00 and the Bond for those two periods is \$6.13 for a total of \$46.13 and the Board abates \$224.70).

SEV04/Gewirtz, Colleen: Mrs. Gewirtz was available by phone and was also represented by Mr. & Mrs. Denyou. Mrs. Gewirtz received her bill in the amount of \$4,236.74 for the use of 206,100 gallons, and is appealing this amount. Personnel from the Fire District checked the meter on November 11 and November 12th. Overnight, 100 gallons was used, however the unit is rented and 100 gallons would not be out of line.

Ferrazza moved to have Mrs. Gewirtz install a new meter and average this bill using two “same” periods adjusting the bill to 5,700 gallons for a usage charge of \$102.20 plus the bond of \$14.97 for a grand total of \$117.17 and abate the difference of \$4,119.57. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

PA004/Valente, Steven: Mr. Valente wrote the Board requesting the penalties and interest be removed from his account due to an address discrepancy that lead to his bill being sent back to him late. Mr. Valente states that he has not had an address change nor has he contacted any office informing them of a possible address change. Mr. Valente’s request now totals \$47.92. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Valente’s request because it is the responsibility of the owner to notify the Fire District that they did not receive their bill. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

KWF06A/Nass, David: Mr. Nass e-mailed the Board stating the reading on the water meter is defective and incorrect. Mr. Nass is appealing the charge of \$2,123.51 for the use of 103,300 gallons. The Fire District checked the unit with maintenance personnel from Kingswood and maintenance informed North Branch that they checked the unit the week of November 2nd and the water was on in the unit, but they found no water running and they shut the water off at that time. On November 10th. Chief Operator Howes and the maintenance personnel found the main floor bathroom toilet had a low water level in the tank, indicating a leaky flapper valve. Feldstein moved to have the meter replaced and to deny the request for an adjustment due to the leaking flapper valve allowing water to flow to the treatment facility for treatment. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

TD017/Hutson, John: Mr. Hutson wrote the Board stating the reason for the excessive amount due was a leaking hot water heater in July. The water went into the dirt basement where the heater was located. Attached was a bill from the plumber who installed the new unit. Feldstein moved to abate \$1,831.08 from Mr. Huson’s bill and charge him, based on his past history, \$74.24 for usage and \$10.88 for the bond. A grand total of \$85.12.

GS127/Colty-Heyward, Marva/Childs, Andrew: Mr. Child’s has requested reimbursement in the amount of \$2,610.85, the amount he paid through Vermont Property Management, Inc. for this customer for the November 2014 bill. However, Sarah Hyde stated in an e-mail on October 3, 2014 that when a maintenance person from Greensprings entered the unit he immediately heard the water running. A toilet was running through because the water to the unit was left on. The Board feels this matter is between the owner and Mr. Childs. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Childs request for reimbursement because the water came to the plant to be treated. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

AP017/Kondub, Noel: Ms. Kondub is appealing her May 2015 bill in the amount of \$957.19 for 44,600 gallons. The Board noted that the meter only ran high that one period. Due to the lack of information, Feldstein moved to have Ms. Kondub install a new meter and create a two year history. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

Other Appeals: None.

Ferrazza moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Feldstein. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,
Administrative Manager

cc: H. Terhune, D. Facilla, E. Barber, T. Ferrazza, C. Frere, L. Feldstein, T. Wilkins, S. Valente, D. Nass, J. Hutson, A. Childs, N. Kondub, A. Sorvillo, C. Gewirtz, Deerfield Valley News & Brattleboro Reformer.

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