

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

**Phone: 802-464-7560**

**Fax: 802-464-3040**

**E-mail: [nbfd1@myfairpoint.net](mailto:nbfd1@myfairpoint.net)**

Minutes of the North Branch Fire District #1, Board of Abatement, December 7, 2017.

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by  
Administrative Manager, Linda Holland.

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

**Absent:** Edward Barber.

**Also Present:** James DesRochers, Marci Himelson and Linda Holland.

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

**Minutes:** Frere moved to approve the Minutes of June 1, 2017 as submitted. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

**In House Errors/VL011 & SY014:**

**VL011/Konchan, Matthew:** Ferrazza moved to abate \$141.39 because this is a vacant lot. Seconded by Ryan. Passed unanimously.

**SY014/Blumenthal, Diane:** Ferrazza moved to abate \$30.42 from Ms. Blumenthal's bill because her by-pass meter was not deducted. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

**RT087X, RT024, TV000, RT092/Town of Dover & Dover Elementary School:** Ryan moved to abate a total of \$273.63 from the above Town Buildings, based on the vote from the November 9, 2017 special meeting. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

**RT121 a/James DesRochers/The Lodge:** Mr. DesRochers explained that his old furnace was leaking at a rate of 52 gallons per day from March 26, 2017 until October 28, 2017. JEK Plumbing repaired the furnace on October 28, 2017. Ryan moved to abate 10,920 gallons at the current rate of \$20.84 per thousand totaling an abatement of \$227.57. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

**BX047/Schacter, Steven:** Mr. Schacter recently received an invoice for the period April 14, 2017 to October 2, 2017 in the amount of \$1,879.58, the usage of 90,191 gallons. Mr. Schacter states the home was unoccupied all but a total of ten days. Attached were electric usage reports from Green Mountain Power for the same period. The managing agents for Bears Crossing confirm that there were no running faucets or toilets. The new

cell meter was installed on November 15, 2017. Ferrazza moved to table this matter for a period of one year. Seconded by Ryan. Passed unanimously.

**DR081E/Tammy Snow:** Mrs. Snow wrote the Board stating that she had not been in the building that houses the water meters all summer. When Josh and John, from the North Branch Fire District went to install the two new cellular heads on October 27<sup>th</sup>. they found two valves leaking profusely. Mrs. Snow enclosed photos showing the water leaks. This water ran onto the floor of the well house and not back to the treatment system. Mrs. Snow is seeking consideration based on her previous history. Ferrazza moved to abate \$264.38 based on Mrs. Snow history. Seconded by Ryan. Passed unanimously.

**GS095/Lieberman, Susan:** Ms. Lieberman is writing to dispute the current charge for the water at 1B Dover Springs Lane. Ms. Lieberman states the unit was only used eight nights total during the period from May through November. Also attached is a summary of the Green Mountain Power usage. Ms. Lieberman has the old meter that recorded a usage of 20,200 gallons. Her total bill is \$474.81. Ferrazza moved to abate a portion based on the electric bills. Seconded by Frere. Ferrazza withdrew the motion. Ferrazza moved to deny Ms. Lieberman's request and strongly urges her to install the new cellular meter. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

**KW003/Vecchiotti, Arthur:** Mr. Vecchiotti wrote stating when he received his fall water bill he found the charges to be double his average water usage. Mr. Vecchiotti finds this excessive as he has not used his condo unit more than eight days in the six month period due to an injury. When Mr. Vecchiotti leaves his unit he always closes the water main. Ryan moved to deny Mr. Vecchiotti's request and have the owner check all the toilets to make sure nothing is seeping through. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

**VC007/Grabowski, Ronald:** Mr. Grabowski wrote the Board requesting an adjustment to his November 2017 bill in the amount of \$1,222.28. Mr. Grabowski goes on to explain that he had a problem with a running toilet during the 4<sup>th</sup>. of July weekend which was not discovered, or fixed, for a few days. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Grabowski's request because the water came to the plant to be treated. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

**SO000A/Rice, Joyce:** Ms. Rice is questioning the use of 88,200 gallons on her May 2017 bill. The total amount paid by Ms. Rice was \$1,654.46. A new cellular meter was installed on October 4, 2017. Ryan moved to reimburse the equivalent of 75,500 gallons as the highest winter use was 12,700 gallons. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously. (Based on 12,700 gallons divided by 1,000 gallons x rate of 16.60 per thousand gallons the usage total is \$210.82. The bond rate for May of 2017 was 13% so \$210.82 x 13% is \$27.41. The adjusted total is \$283.23. Ms. Rice paid \$1,654.46 less the total of \$283.23 her reimbursement totals \$1,416.23)

**MV026/Lerner, Jerry:** Mr. Lerner wrote stating he would like the Board to abate \$334.26 the cost of his water meter. Mr. Lerner states that due to medical reasons he had not visited his home in West Dover for more than six months. On August 14<sup>th</sup>. of this year, he found his water meter leaking when he turned on the water. Mr. Lerner feels that it is not fair to charge him for this new meter which he feels must have been faulty in order for it to crack. Mr. Lerner's meter was an old generation meter that is well over twenty years old. Ferrazza moved to deny Mr. Lerner's request based on the current Ordinance that states the meter is the responsibility of the owner. Seconded by Ryan. Passed unanimously. The Board would like to reiterate that payment plans are available.

**SP004B/Christy Wood:** On May 25, 2017 Ms. Wood wrote in regards to her increased water bills this last year. The May 2017 bill and the November 2016 bill. Ms. Wood states she hired a plumber because the tenants had reported that the toilet had been running a bit and thought that must be the cause of the increase. The toilet was fixed and the condo was inspected for any other leaks in which they (the plumber) found none. Ms. Wood scheduled an inspection of the unit with Linda Holland prior to the sale of her unit. Holland concluded that the meter was running on and off, audible in the meter room. Holland checked the toilet and from time to time it would run. The inspection of the unit by Holland was performed May 7, 2017 and the report stated that 4,434 gallons was used from April 17 to May 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board noted that Holland's inspection took place after the plumber was in the unit on January 23, 2017. Ferrazza moved to deny Ms. Wood's request and encourage her to contact her plumber because he/she did not fix the problem. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

**SEO07/Schurr, Paul:** Mr. Schurr wrote the Board stating the usage of 15,447 gallons appears wildly inaccurate given his history. After investigating the problem, it was determined that the meter assigned to Mr. Schurr was installed in another unit. After recalculating the correct meter Holland has determined that Mr. Schurr is due a reimbursement. Ferrazza moved to reimburse \$183.02 to Mr. Schurr, as calculated. Seconded by Ryan. Passed unanimously.

**TC047/Marilyn Stevens:** Ms. Stevens questioned her November 2015 bill in the amount of \$215.85 and has since created her two year history. Frere moved to reimburse Ms. Stevens \$92.38. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

**BX143/Pine, David:** The Board has tabled this matter and asks that Mr. Pine write a letter explaining the use of 18,000 gallons. The Board strongly urges Mr. Pine to install the new cellular meter in the living area of his Bears Crossing unit.

**VS010: Scotto, Louis:** Dated December 4, 2017 a letter from Louis and Delicia Scotto stating they have created the two year history in regards to their May 2015 bill in the amount of \$753.31. Ferrazza moved to reimburse Mr. & Mrs. Scotto \$600.93. Seconded by Frere. Motion Withdrawn. Ryan moved to reimburse Mr. & Mrs. Scotto \$600.93 with the notice that no further abatements will be heard until the new cellular meter is installed. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

**SH003/Kruszewski, Joseph:** Mr. Kruszewski stated he would attend the meeting to appeal his bill in the amount of \$1,648.01. Mr. Kruszewski was not present. Based on the information the Board had to review, such as flow charts from the Beacon program, Ferrazza moved to deny. Seconded by Ryan. Passed unanimously.

**Other Appeals:** None.

Braunbach adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,  
Administrative Manager

cc: E. Barber, T. Ferrazza, C. Frere, B. Ryan, K. Braunbach, M. Konchan, D. Blumenthal, Town of Dover, J. DesRochers, S. Schacter, T. Snow, S. Lieberman, A. Vecchiotti, R. Grabowski, J. Rice, J. Lerner, C. Wood, P. Schurr, M. Stevens, D. Pine, L. Scotto, J. Kruszewski Deerfield Valley News & Brattleboro Reformer.

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