

**Meeting of the Public Works Commission – February 14th, 2023**

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**Present:** William Coleman, Chairman

Diego Barricelli, Commissioner

Erica Lotz, Commissioner, Commissioner

**DISCUSSIONS: (3)**

- 1) Commissioners vote to no longer have William Coleman go to DPW to sign Warrant but instead just have the DPW Director Robert Knox sign them going forward. ***All in favor***
  
- 2) The City's Legal Department at the request of the Tax Appellate Board suggests that moving forward the Public Works Commission Clerk, Karen Bourque have an "Intake form" prepared with information as to the request of the Resident regarding their request to appear before The Public Works Commission for an abatement hearing. ***All in favor***
  
- 3) Paper was received from the Malden City Council: Resolve be it hereby resolved that it is the sense of the City Council that the Administration and Public Works Commission explore alternatives to the current water and sewer rate tiers to bring more equitable rates to two-family and other multifamily homes, including but not limited to, submeter account billing for individual units to reflect actual per unit consumption. The motion was further made by Councillor O'Malley, seconded by Councillor- Colon Hayes to move this topic of discussion into a joint session of the Public Works/Finance Committee for further evaluation. The motion was passed by the City Council by unanimous vote. Commissioners look over paper.

**CONFERENCES:**

**Brian Toto, 479-481 Lynn Street.** Seeking abatement on his December 2022 & January 2023 water and sewer bills. Tenant was being evicted for non-payment of Rent and he believes that they left the toilet running without notifying them which resulted in the bill being run up. Toilet was fixed and bills are back to normal. This account was granted an abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$1,834.39 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Cynthia Becker, 53 Perkins Avenue.** Seeking abatement on her August 2022 water and sewer bill. Her boyfriend appears on her behalf and says that Toilet may have been running it has since been fixed and bills are back to normal. This account was granted an abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant abatement of \$320.04 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Sharon Smith and her mom Roseann Mahar, 26 Main St.** Seeking abatement on her January 2023 water and sewer bill. Ms. Smith called Karen in Engineering and she was instructed to do the food coloring test in the toilets to see if the flapper was sticking and if that's what ran her bill up. She still wasn't sure at hearing why the bill went up and said there was nothing she could find wrong with the toilets but her bills are now back to normal usage. This account was granted an abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$58.36 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Brian Holliday, 201 Mountain Avenue.** Seeking abatement on his February 2023 water and sewer bill. He had a problem with one of his toilets and believes it was running more than it should have been resulting in the high-water bills. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$312.41 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Tommy Wan Ng, 27-27A Russell Street.** Seeking abatement on his January & February 2023 water and sewer bills. They had an issue with one of the toilets and replaced the flapper. Bills are now back to normal use. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$634.79 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Hongyu Tan, 19-21 Grove Street.** Seeking abatement on his December 2022, January & February 2023 water, and sewer bills. They had a toilet issue in the rental unit, it was repaired, and bills seem to be back to normal. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$3,103.99 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Joseph Oreste, 18-20 Wolcott Street.** Seeking abatement on his December 2022 and February, 2023 water and sewer bills. He said that the toilet in the Tenants unit was running and the flapper needed to be replaced so he did. Bills now back to normal usage. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$1,262.94 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Harmesh Singh, 22 John Street.** Seeking abatement on his January 2023 water and sewer bill. He claims that the Toilet in the basement was continuously over flushing resulting in the high water usage, he shut the water off to that toilet and will replace it. Bills now down to normal usage. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$460.14 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Andrew Kennedy, 85 Linden Avenue.** Seeking abatement several of his 2022 water and sewer bills. He did the toilet test per Karen in Engineering and did find that the flapper in the tank of the toilet was not sealing properly resulting in the high-water bills. This is rental property with approximately 6 people in three units. He repaired the toilet and now bill is back to normal. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$166.87 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Margherita Federico, 59 Webster Street.** Seeking abatement on her November 2022 through February 2023 water and sewer bills. The toilet in the basement was checked and it was found to be running continuously so she had it replaced, bills now back to normal usage. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$388.02 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**Antonio N. Catricala, Jr., 96-98 Converse Avenue.** Seeking abatement on his January & February 2023 water and sewer bills. He lives in Florida and has no family living here to attend the hearing so he asked Karen what she suggested he do about the high bills, she mentioned to have the tenants check the toilets and he did and found that one was having an issue with the flapper, Karen put him on the agenda and spoke to the Commissioners for him, his next bill is still a little high but then the bill after that one is back on track with normal usage so the problem is fixed. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$2,402.87 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**James Raisbeck, 10-12 Wilson Avenue.** Seeking abatement several of his 2022 & 2023 water and sewer bills. He said that the water heater had let go resulting in water leaking in basement, he had that replaced and installed a "flume" because he had a toilet running. This is rental property with about 6-8 people on the property. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based upon hearing testimony.

***Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$4,355.89 All in favor***

**SEE VOTE**

**NO SHOWS: (2)**

**Karl Peters – 16 Hillside Park**

**Ram Kripal – 14 Cliff Terrace**

**RESCHEDULE (1):**

**E. Toronto – 456 Highland Avenue (Death in the Family)**

**CANCELLED: (2)**

**Deepak & Sita Shrestha - 140 Mills Street (out of the Country)**

**Hoi Fuk Lee - 188 Washington Street**

**VOTES:**

To grant abatement of \$1894.39 to 479-481 Lynn St.

To grant abatement of \$320.04 to 53 Perkins Ave.

To grant abatement of \$58.36 to 26 Main St.

To grant abatement of \$312.41 to 201 Mountain Ave.

To grant abatement of \$634.79 to 27-27A Russell St

To grant abatement of \$3103.99 to 19-21 Grove St.

To grant abatement of \$1262.94 to 18-20 Wolcott St.

To grant abatement of \$460.14 to 22 John St.

To grant abatement of \$166.87 to 85 Linden Ave

To grant abatement of \$388.02 to 59 Webster St.

To grant abatement of \$2,407.87 to 96-98 Converse Ave.

To grant abatement of \$4,355.89 to 10-12 Wilson Ave.

To grant abatement of \$8,761.67 to 64 Summer St.

**Meeting Adjourned at: 6:00 pm**

**Next Meeting: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**



**Karen M. Bourque, Clerk**



**William Coleman, Chairman**



**Diego Barricelli, Commissioner**



**Erica Lotz, Commissioner**