



# CITY OF CHICOPEE

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Jeffrey A. Neece  
Superintendent

Joseph Kietner  
Chief Operator

Quinn T. Lonczak  
Project Supervisor

### Sewer Commission Meeting March 23, 2016

Present: Sewer Commissioners: Joseph Carriveau, Chairman  
James Raschilla, Vice-Chairman  
James Carabetta  
Jessica Dzwonkoski  
  
Chung Liu, Excused

Also Present: Joseph Kietner, Chief Operator, WPC  
Quinn Lonczak, Project Supervisor, WPC  
Jennifer Harazmus, Financial Administrator, DPW  
Robert Arcott of 48-50 Ames Avenue  
Al Kurro representing Highland Farms of 466 Chicopee Street

Ms. Dzwonkoski isn't present at the start of the meeting and notified WPC she would be late.

#### Abatements:

Mr. Arcott of 48-50 Ames Avenue is here tonight requesting an abatement for high usage due to a toilet leak. Mr. Arcott explained he bought this property about seven months ago and when he received his recent water and sewer bill he realized there must be a leak somewhere because his usage was very high. Mr. Arcott found the toilet in the second floor apartment to be leaking and subsequently repaired it.

Robert Arcott – 48-50 Ames Avenue – High Usage/Toilet Leak - Amount Requested \$630.00, Amount Recommended \$494.24, Mr. Raschilla motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carabetta, Approved 3-0.

Mr. Kurro is here tonight, representing Highland Farms, of 466 Chicopee Street requesting an abatement for an unexplained high usage. Mr. Kurro explained he is the owner of Village Pizza which shares the same building and water meter as Highland Farms. Mr. Kurro further explained they received a high usage water and sewer bill in October 2015, called the Water Department and was instructed to check the property for leaks and the property was checked by a plumber who couldn't find any leaks.

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## Water Pollution Control

The owner of Highland Farms informed the Water Department at one point that he shut off all water but the water meter was still spinning. The Water Department installed a new meter on October 26, 2015. The water usage has since gone back to a normal range. This abatement was previously denied at the February 24, 2016 Sewer Commission meeting for lack of documentation. Mr. Kurro explained the building is on a slab and there's one bathroom in the convenience store, two bathrooms in the pizza shop and a sink in the pizza shop, so if there was a significant leak it would've been noticed.

Highland Farms – 466 Chicopee Street – Unexplained High Usage – Amount Requested \$1,577.00, Amount Recommended \$943.67, Mr. Raschilla motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carabetta, Approved 3-0.

Aldenville Package Store – 742 Grattan Street – High Usage/Toilet Leak – Amount Requested None, Amount Recommended \$2,659.64, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, Approved 3-0.

Mary Ellen Philbrick – 26 Manos Drive – High Usage/Sprinkler System Leak – Amount Requested \$178.00, Amount Recommended \$147.34, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, Approved 3-0.

Slawomir & Marta Syper – 240 Springfield Street – Billing Error – Recommended Amount \$338.54, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Ms. Dzwonkoski, Approved 3-0.

Dalton Alexis – 18 Bemis Street – Estimated Reading – \$167.98, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, approved 3-0.

Susan Pickett – 120 Chateaugay Street – Estimated Reading – \$1,799.75, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, approved 3-0.

Maddox Realty – 524 Chicopee Street – Estimated Reading – \$102.66, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, approved 3-0.

Karl Hidden – 17 Eldridge Street – Estimated Reading – \$25.72, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, approved 3-0.

Yvette Guyette – 255 Grattan Street – Estimated Reading – \$26.64, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, approved 3-0.

Amos & Tina Umezuruike – 221 Poplar Street – Estimated Reading – \$75.32, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, approved 3-0.

Krzysztof Janczar – 572 Springfield Street – Estimated Reading – \$45.43, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, approved 3-0.

Evelyn Cruz – 105 Woodlawn Street – Estimated Reading – \$144.00, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, approved 3-0.

Ms. Dzwonkoski is now present.

Richard Corriveau – 30 Roy Street – Misread Meter - \$377.52, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Ms. Dzwonkoski, approved 4-0.

Forest Hills Properties, Inc. – 43 Springfield Street – Misread Meter - \$7,440.39, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Ms. Dzwonkoski, approved 4-0.

Allen Daley – 28 Frank Street – Stuck Outside Register - \$14.44, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Ms. Dzwonkoski, Approved 4-0.

Bryan & Angela Guillemette – 145 Manning Street – Stuck Outside Register - \$634.87, Mr. Carabetta motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Ms. Dzwonkoski, Approved 4-0.

Rene & Pauline Cotnoir – 79 Dunn Street – Interest Charges – \$3.85, Mr. Raschilla motioned to approve the abatement, seconded by Mr. Carabetta, approved 4-0.

Mr. Carriveau motioned to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Carabetta, Approved 4-0.

#### Commitments:

March 2016 – Sewer & Storm – \$990,503.11, Mr. Carabetta motioned to accept, seconded by Mr. Raschilla, accepted 4-0.

Sewer and Storm Fee Revenues through February 29, 2016 total \$8,674,712.18, which is \$73,652.54 less than what had been projected.

Joe Kietner informed the Sewer Commission he hasn't received a response yet from the Mayor in regards to the correspondence they voted to send at their February meeting about a water and sewer infrastructure surcharge.

Mr. Raschilla brought up the topic of informing the public about the 30% summer discount on sewer usage which was previously discussed at their January meeting where it was requested that an informational flyer be sent out with upcoming water and sewer bills. Mr. Raschilla mentioned he noticed there may be enough room on the water and sewer bill backer to include information on the discount. Mr. Carabetta explained there's also the possibility of potentially adding a note in the special comment section of the actual bill. Jennifer informed the commissioners she will discuss the different options with the Water Department Billing Coordinator and give them a response at their next meeting.

Mr. Raschilla asked for an update on new water meter installations and the possibility of monthly billing. Jennifer informed him there's an upcoming meeting with Weston & Sampson who has been contracted by the City to design and oversee the Water Meter Modernization Project. Mr. Raschilla replied that at this point he would like to go on record as stating he is opposed to monthly billing. Ms. Dzwonkoski mentioned since water and sewer is a utility such as cable service and utilities are generally billed monthly that she would like to see water and sewer go to monthly billing. Mr. Carabetta explained he agrees with Mr. Raschilla and would like to keep billing quarterly. Mr. Carabetta further explained a great feature with the new water meters is the ability to immediately notify residents via email or some other form of notification of a significant increase in their usage and monthly billing isn't necessarily needed to do that. Jennifer explained Tom Hamel has been involved with this project since the beginning and if the Sewer Commissioners wanted more information or to discuss their feelings on monthly billing then Tom Hamel could be invited to attend a future meeting. Mr. Carabetta mentioned he would be interested in knowing what percentage of residents would be in favor of monthly billing and Jennifer explained a questionnaire had been sent out to residents a few years ago and the majority was in favor of it.

Quinn informed the Sewer Commissioners the next phase of the Sewer Separation Project which will take place in parts of Chicopee Center has been conditionally awarded to Ludlow Construction who is currently under contract for the North Aldenville/Montgomery Street/Sheridan Street Sewer Separation Project.

Joe Kietner informed the Sewer Commissioners that Sarah of the WPC Office has recently spoken to Chung Liu and he wanted to let his fellow commissioners know he hasn't been able to attend their meetings lately because of a scheduling conflict with his work but does hope to be able to attend meetings again in the near future.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

Ms. Raschilla motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 P.M., seconded by Mr. Carabetta, adjourned 4 - 0.

<b>Accepted</b>	
Vote	<u>4</u> - <u>0</u>
Date	<u>4/6/16</u>

Copies: Mayor  
City Council  
City Clerk  
DPW Superintendent