Utility Appeals Board
October 9, 2013
Draft Minutes

Board Members Present:

Tom Arnold, Carlos P. Baía, Elizabeth "Beth" Campbell

Absent:

Dick Patten

Meeting called to order at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes of the January 24, 2013 meeting

Tom Arnold moved approval. Beth Campbell seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Case #2013-001: 16-18 Cross Street

Mr. and Mrs. McEachern represented the owner, Olive Dubreuil. Mrs. McEachern is the daughter of the owner. They explained that the property is a duplex with 88 year old Mrs. Dubreuil living in one half and her grandson in the other. The McEacherns stated that they had examined the house for leaks and found none and could not understand the magnitude of water that was attributed to the property for the period in question.

Carlos Baía inquired of City Water Division staff present at the meeting as to the condition of the meter. Staff indicated that the meter was replaced but the technician noted that before swapping out the meter, the consumption had already dropped. Staff further indicated that the old meter was tested at the Water Division and was working properly.

The Board in its deliberation noted that based on the reduction in water consumption prior to the old meter being replaced and the fact that the old meter tested properly, there was no evidence that could support the appeal.

Ms. Campbell moved to deny the appeal but to grant a two year repayment period for the outstanding balance. Mr. Arnold seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Case #2013-002: 18 Grappone Drive

Fred and Linda McAllister explained that they lived in a manufactured home and had not experienced any extraordinary use of water. They stated that they had checked the entirety of the trailer and found no leaks.

Mr. Baía asked if they had an outside hose bib. Mr. McAllister answered that they did but that he did not think that this would have been the cause of the water usage.

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Staff indicated that the meter in this case was not replaced, simply the reader and transmitter. The consumption reflected on the last bill demonstrates a drop to levels associated with the homeowners' typical usage.

Lacking any additional evidence to support the appeal, Mr. Arnold moved to deny. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion.

Mr. McAllister stated that he did not require a payment plan and that he would pay the balance. Ms. McAllister asked about any late fees or interest stemming from the balance on appeal. Mr. Baía stated that those fees or interest would be removed and reflected in a subsequent bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos P. Baía

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