



# CITY OF CONCORD

NEW HAMPSHIRE

City Hall • 41 Green Street • Concord, NH 03301 • tel. 603/225-8595 • fax 603/228-2701

*Carlos P. Baía*  
*Deputy City Manager*  
*Development*

**Utility Appeals Board  
Meeting  
October 25, 2012  
5:30 PM  
Council Chambers  
Minutes**

In attendance: Tom Arnold  
Carlos Baía  
Elizabeth Campbell

Absent: Dick Patten

Staff: Jeff Hoadley, General Services Department (GSD)  
Rob Young, GSD  
Lucie Muhlfelder, GSD

Appellants Present: Steve Comi, 3 Coolidge Avenue, Concord

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Review of the January 26, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Tom Arnold; seconded by Beth Campbell

No changes were cited.

Approved 3-0

Case #UAB2012-001: 3 Coolidge Avenue—Steve and Melanie Comi

Mr. Baía explained the format of the meeting to Mr. Comi indicating that he had the opportunity to share any details that he felt would assist the Board in understanding his appeal.

Mr. Comi stated that he didn't have much more to add to what was written in his letter. He noted that he had had a leaky faucet in his home several times in the past. He explained that his home dates to 1938 and that he is seeking to renovate it so that occurrences such as this won't happen again.

Mr. Comi explained the issue with the leaky toilet and acknowledged that he didn't give the repair the sense of urgency that it, in retrospect, should have gotten. Ms. Campbell asked him where the toilet was located in the house. Mr. Comi replied that it was upstairs.

Mr. Arnold asked about Mr. Comi's pool. Mr. Comi didn't think the high bill was related to the pool but he acknowledged that part of the water bill could have stemmed from a hose that may have been left on for a day or two but that he just didn't know.

Mr. Baía asked GSD staff for a longer account history. It showed that Mr. Comi's water usage had been steady dating back, at least, to 2010 with the highest usage being in the summer months at about a maximum of 28 ccf.

Ms. Campbell asked if there was faulty meter. Mr. Young indicated that the usage has come right back down since Mr. Comi realized the problem. He added that the usage has actually declined to below what it was averaging prior to the spike discounting the likelihood that it was a meter problem.

Ms. Campbell cited prior precedent in these types of cases. Both she and Mr. Arnold noted that the Board has consistently denied appeals where water was utilized and entered the sewer due to issues such as lack of maintenance on the owner's part. Mr. Baía made a cursory review of past board meeting minutes and concurred with that conclusion.

Ms. Campbell moved to deny the appeal. Mr. Hoadley remarked that the City's water division has the ability to provide a payment plan up to 6 months. He inquired whether the Board would want to consider a one year payment plan should it vote to deny the appeal.

Mr. Comi explained that 6 months would be sufficient. Mr. Arnold suggested that he consider the year just in case.

Ms. Campbell amended her motion. She moved to deny the appeal but offer the appellant the opportunity to establish a payment plan with the water division for a time period of up to one year. Mr. Arnold seconded this motion.

Vote was 3-0 to approve the motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

