

CITY OF BERLIN, NH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
ABATEMENT/APPEAL REQUEST FORM
(forms also available online at berlinnh.gov)



TO BE COMPLETED BY PARTY REQUESTING AN ABATEMENT

DATE: 9/5/19

NAME: JAMES J. BOWER ACCOUNT NO. 141500

ADDRESS: 569 Rockingham ST TELEPHONE NO.: 603-631-4576

E-MAIL: jdbinfo750@gmail.com

REASON FOR ABATEMENT REQUEST

A. Do you feel there was a clerical (mathematical) error with regard to the consumption reported to calculate you bill? Yes ☒ No

B. If you are requesting an abatement for some reason other than a clerical error, please clearly explain why below. You may wish to include any supporting documents.

Explanation: IN NOVEMBER I CLOSED ALL VALVES INSIDE THE HOUSE CONCERNING WATER SERVICE ENTERING THE RESIDENCE. I OPENED ALL FAUCETS AND DRAINED FURNACE LEAVING VALVES OPEN. I PLACED RV ANTIFREEZE IN TOILET BOWL AND ALL SINK AND SHOWER TRAPS. I CHECKED HOUSE ON A REGULAR BASIS AND IN MID WINTER DISCOVERED THAT THE WATER METER HAD FROZE AND SPLIT DUMPING WATER DOWNWARD ONTO THE DIRT FLOOR OF THE BASEMENT EXITING AT THE RIGHT REAR CORNER OF THE BASEMENT. I IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED BERLIN WATER WORKS AND THEY SHUT THE VALVE AT THE STREET. I WAS UNAWARE OF THE SEWER BILL UNTIL SEPT 4th, 2019 AT WHICH POINT I REQUESTED A

Signature: James J. Bower 9/5/19

LETTER FROM BWU SUPERINTENDENT STATING HIS BELIEF THAT ALL WATER WENT INTO THE DIRT FLOOR AND NOT

THRU THE SEWER PLANT AS ALL INSIDE VALVES REMAIN CLOSED PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TECH WHO REPLACED THE WATER METER UNTIL A PLUMBER COULD BE PRESENT.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Necessary Action: Recheck Consumptions Forward to Sewer User Charge
Appeal Committee

Determination: _____

Amount of Original Bill: _____
Amount Abated: _____ Research by: _____
New Balance: _____
Date Completed: _____

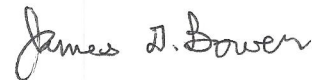
September 12th, 2019

Honorable Mayor, Members of the City Council,

I wish to thank you for allowing me to submit these supporting documents before you on September 16th, well beyond the appeal process deadline. I was unaware of the high sewer bill until reading the letter from the city's accounting firm on September 4th. Enclosed find a letter from the Berlin Water Works superintendent dated September 5th stating that a technician from his department was sent out to meet me at the property in January 2018 to shut off the water service and he further states, " They found that the water meter had frozen and split, causing the water to spill out on to the basement floor, and did not drain through the city sewer system."

I would like to add that on the advice of the technician that replaced my water meter I did not open the valves inside the house until I had a plumber present and on September 4th with Northwoods Heating present Jim Welsh informed me that he was not a plumber and so the valves remain closed to this day. I am scheduled to have the service shut off at the street on September 19th due to the extreme strain this has put on my finances and wished to point out that if any of the above facts needed verification that technician could verify and observe that the RV antifreeze still remains in the toilet bowl and trap. In the Spring I will be in a position to address these plumbing and heating issues as I am on a fixed income of SS and a pension. With the knowledge gained the hard way I would not anticipate troubling the Council again in the future.

Sincerely,



James D. Bower
569 Rockingham St.
Berlin, NH



BERLIN WATER WORKS

OFFICE OF THE WATER COMMISSION
55 Willow Street, Berlin, NH

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
55 Willow Street
Berlin, NH 03570-1883
Tel: 603-752-1677

September 5, 2019

James Bower
PO BOX 3
Beecher Falls, VT 05902

Acct #: 14150003
For: 569 Rockingham Street

Mr. Bower,

Our records indicated that in January 2018, you had a large water leak resulting in high consumption. One of our technicians met you at the property to shut the water. They found that the water meter had frozen and split, causing the water to spill out on to the basement floor, and did not drain through the city sewer system.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office.

Thank You,

Craig P. Carrigan
Superintendent

CPC;cv