

Meeting of the Public Works Commission – January 13th, 2026

Present: Diego Barricelli, Chairman

Erica Lotz, Commissioner

Andrew Scarano, Commissioner

Drain Layers Request:

Cummings Excavation & Construction – 9 Merideth Road, Peabody requests to be a Drain Layer in the City of Malden. He submits a completed Application with three required references. References were checked by the Engineering Department and the Commission signed said application approving the request. Approval letter sent via mail.

Commission votes to grant said request.

All in favor

CONFERENCES:

Diane Palumbo – 8 Rockland Avenue. Seeking an abatement on 2 high water & Sewer bills for December 2025 & January 2026. When she called the Engineering Department, she was told that she was showing a small leak code on her bill, so she was instructed on how to perform a dye/food color test in the toilets. She was unable to attend the hearing as she is an elderly woman but she did call back to say that her son did do the dye test and did find an issue in one of the toilets so she had her son change the flapper in the toilet and as of this hearing her bills are back down to normal usage. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$26.85 for December 2025 & January 2026

All in favor

Carol O'Brien – 224 Glenwood Street. Seeking abatement on her December 2025 & January 2026 water & sewer bills. When she called to inquire about the high bills, she told Karen that she had been having problems off and on with her toilet running continuously so she had her son check it and found a defective flapper. She is 83 years old and recently lost her husband so is finding expenses tough to maneuver as he took care of everything. She came before the Commission and told them that she ended up hiring a plumber to go through the house and he found a defective flapper and replaced it and as of this hearing her bills are back to normal. This account was granted an

abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$214.27 for December, 2025 & January 2026

All in favor

Shirley Licorish 106-108 Lyme Street. Seeking an abatement on her December 2025 & January 2026 water and sewer bills. This is a three-family rental, but she also lives in one of the units. This happened once before at this property, and it was a flapper in one of the toilets so when she started receiving higher bills, she had her husband go through the units and found another defective flapper, so he changed it and now the bills are back down to normal usage. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$251.90 for December 2025 and January 2026

All in favor

Daniel Pesquera 141 Kimball Street. Seeking an abatement on his August & September 2025 water & sewer bills. There are three toilets on this property which is a single family. When he called to inquire about getting an abatement on these two high bills, he was asked to test the toilets as the account was showing a small leak code and is still showing a small code even though the bills are back down to somewhat normal usage. He will check the toilets again. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$268.96 for August & September 2025

All in favor

Darinka Dongo – 130-132 Oakland Street. Seeking an abatement on his November, & December 2025 water & sewer bills. This is a two-family rental property he does not live on the premises. When he called to inquire to the higher-than-normal bills he was told that the account was showing an intermittent leak code for several months and to check with the tenants to see if there were any toilets running. The tenant did find that the flush valve was sticking so he replaced it himself and now the bills are back down to normal usage. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$1150.44 for November & December 2025

All in favor

Ram Khatri -92-94 Lawrence St. Seeking abatement on his October, November & December ,2025 water & sewer bills. This is a 2 family, and he also lives on the property. When he called to inquire about the higher than normal readings he was told that there has been a leak code generated on his account for at least a year so there was probably a toilet flapper not sealing in one of their toilets, so Karen mentioned the dye/food coloring test in the toilets for leaks, he claims at the hearing that he did this and tested the 3 toilets on the property several times and he finally did find a flapper issue and replaced them all and as of this hearing the bills are back down to normal. No evidence of a defective meter, abatement is based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$699.95 for October, November & December 2025

All in favor

Rachid Chakri - 64 Davis Street. Seeking abatement on several of his water and sewer bills. At the hearing he was asked why his bills were Estimated for several months in 2024 then he received 5 months of Actual bills and then again started receiving Estimated bills for 7 months and why he didn't call to rectify the issue, when the Water Meter Forman was asked about this property for the hearing he told us that they went out there twice and the wires were cut twice and the R900 Radio box had been removed. We went back out here on January 2nd and replaced the R900 again and he was charged on this account \$215.00 for the new Radio. When he was asked why the wires were cut twice and the Radio missing, he claims he doesn't know what happened to the R900. The commissioners give him a break and abate his last Estimated bill for December. As of this hearing the bills are back to normal use. This account was granted an abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, but the wires were cut from R900 to the meter which registers the usage.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$231.99 for December 2025

All in favor

Rachelly Bartolotta – 9 Orchard St. Seeking abatement on her November & December 2025 water & sewer bills. This is a 3-family, and she does not reside on the property. When she called to inquire about the high bills, she was told that his account showed a leak code for the two months that she was inquiring about, so it was suggested for her to get some food coloring and go over to the property and test the toilets, so she did. She also asked to have the meter checked so we set her up for Ronnie or Keith to go out to make sure she was satisfied that there was nothing wrong with the meter as we were getting Actual reads from her meter. When she came to the hearing she said she did test the toilets and she did in fact find that there was a toilet running so she changed out the three toilets. As of this hearing her bills are significantly back down even lower than previous. This account was granted an abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$2,088.27 for November & December 2025

All in favor

Eric & Danielle Andersen- 32 Marshall Avenue. Seeking abatement on their October, November & December 2025 water & sewer bills. When they called to inquire about getting an abatement, they had mentioned that there was an issue with one of the toilets with the flapper not sticking so they replaced it and now the bills are back down to normal usage. This account was granted an abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$1589.95 for October, November & December 2025

All in favor

Jadala Sneha – 55 Wyoming Avenue. Seeking abatement on her January 2026 water and sewer bill. This is rental property and she does not live on the property. There was a house fire in November of 2025, and the water wasn't shut down right away causing the meter to leak and the bill to go up to \$1,412.11. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$1405.51 for January 2026

All in favor

Karla M. Trigueros- 130 Olive Avenue Ext. – Seeking abatement on her September & October 2025 water and sewer bills. This is her single-family home with only 4 people residing there. She received one high bill in September and didn't really pay much attention to it but then got one for over \$1,000 that was when she called Engineering and spoke with Karen who suggested it was probably a toilet flapper so she did the dye test and found one of the toilets was not flushing properly so changed the flapper and now the bills are back down even lower than normal. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$1,133.42 for September & October 2025

All in favor

William Cook, Trustee – 54 Newton Street. Seeking abatement on his November 2025 water and sewer bill which is \$861.61. He isn't sure what happened on the property because he claims to be a master plumber and when it is suggested by Karen to test the toilets, he claims that there is NO WAY that a flapper would cause the high bill. He was then asked what he thinks it could be since he is a master plumber and because we are getting Actual reads on his meter, so the water is being used on the property. He said the property is being worked on so the Commissioners suggest that perhaps when the workers are using the toilet the flapper isn't sealing and the water is trickling into the toilet and when they aren't there and no one is on the property then this water is running through the meter continuously and it is generating a leak code for 24 hr. usage. He still claims that there is no way a toilet is causing the high bills. He is once again asked to check the toilets and to also shut off the water underneath the toilets and only have it open when the workers are there so they can use it then to make sure it is shut off when they leave. He continues to be arrogant and claims there's no way, so the Commission is ready to give him a small abatement but asks if he wants an abatement or not because they are ready to change their vote to NO because of his arrogance. As of this hearing the bills are back down to normal use. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$597.47 for November 2025

All in favor

Wing Property of Malden, LLC – 424-426 Salem St. Seeking abatement on several of their water & sewer bills, namely August through December 2025. This is both commercial property and residential property and currently the 2nd floor is empty. Three of these bills (Sept., Oct. & Nov.) they received are Estimated bills which are a little higher (\$450.00) than their normal bills of about (\$250.00) but their last Actual bill from August was very high (\$2,527.11) and it also showed a Continuous leak code that had just started. When the R900 Radio was replaced by us on 10/31/2025 that bill was a manual read and it was also very high (\$4,399.71). The person representing the property did claim that the 2nd floor was currently empty and when they had called Engineering it was suggested to test all toilets and when they did as soon as they walked into the 2nd floor they heard the toilet running at a fast rate so they shut the water off and then eventually replaced the flapper in the toilet which was suggested. As of this hearing their bills are now way down (\$74.46). This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$6,025.50 for August & December 2025

All in favor

Josen Gurmej – 127-129 Harvard Street – Seeking abatement on his November & December 2025 water and sewer bills. This is a 4-family home, and he does live on the property. He was asked if he knew why he received two really high (\$2,590.57 & \$1,001.98) bills although his bills are pretty much all over the place and not consistent. He claim that he had someone renting from him who let another person into one of the units who was using drugs and when he asked them to vacate the property they did not do so at first but when they finally were evicted he noticed that they left water on and did a lot of damage to the unit. As of this hearing his bills seem to be going down. This account was granted an abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement base on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$1,972.63 for November 2025

All in favor

Anna Chow- 173-175 Maple Street. Seeking abatement on two higher than normal water and sewer bills. This is a 3-family home she owns but does not reside on the property. When she called Engineering to inquire why her bills were higher than normal, she was told that the account was generating a leak code for several days throughout the month of September and October, which tells us that there is probably a toilet running in one of the bathrooms and to check with her tenants and to also go over to the property and test the toilets with food coloring. She claims that when she checked with the tenants, one in fact did say that a toilet was running so she changed the flapper at the end of September she also had one tenant say that she had a roommate move in to help her pay the rent. As of this hearing her bills are still high, so she is asked to continue checking with her tenants as to toilet issues and to also just go replace all the flappers. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$365.07 for September 2025

All in favor

Sean Tran & Kevin Tran – 374 Broadway. Seeking abatement on three high water & sewer bills namely November, December & January. This is rental property and they do not live on the property. There are approximately 11 people that reside there. They are asked why the bills are suddenly high and they say they are not sure why, so it is suggested that they go to the property and check the toilets and find what is wrong. As of this hearing their bills seem to be back down to normal usage. This account was granted an abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$2,068.50 for December 2025

All in favor

Earle Thompson, Trustee of 83-85 Mills St. Seeking abatement on three very high bills, namely November, December 2025 and January 2026. This home is currently vacant, and the water shut off in the home as it's an Estate presently in probate court. The property was sold in 2022 it's a three family. When they went in there to check as to why the bills were suddenly coming in high, they found a toilet was consistently running so they had asked for the water to be shut off in the street which the water department would not do, they told the homeowner to shut it off inside at the meter. They had a plumber come in and replace the flapper as well, but the water is now shut off. The commission sympathizes with the trustees and will abate the high bills down. This account was granted abatement for the following reason: No evidence of a defective meter, abatement based on hearing testimony.

Commission voted to grant adjustment of \$23,022.13 for November & December 2025 & January 2026

All in favor

CANCELLED: (1)

- 1) Ali Omar, 64 Jennifer Lane

NO SHOW: (2)

- 1) Anita Shakya, 54 Maynard St.
- 2) Franklin Place Condo's- 131 Franklin St.

VOTES:

To grant an abatement of **\$26.85 to 8 Rockland Avenue**

To grant an abatement of **\$214.27 to 224 Glenwood St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$251.90 to 106-108 Lyme St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$268.96 to 141 Kimball St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$1150.44 to 130-132 Oakland St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$699.95 to 92-94 Lawrence St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$231.99 to 64 Davis St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$2088.27 9 Orchard St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$1589.95 to 32 Marshall Ave.**

To grant an abatement of **\$1405.51 to 55 Wyoming Ave.**

To grant an abatement of **\$1,133.42 to 130 Olive Avenue Ext.**

To grant an abatement of **\$597.47 to 54 Newton St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$6,025.50 to 424-426 Salem St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$1,972.63 to 127-129 Harvard St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$365.07 to 173-175 Maple St.**

To grant an abatement of **\$2,068.50 to 374 Broadway**

To grant an abatement of **\$23,022.13 to 83-85 Mills St.**

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:15 pm

Next Meeting: February 10th, 2026



Diego Barricelli, Chairman



Karen M. Bourque, Clerk to Commission

Erica Lotz, Commissioner



Andrew Scarano, Commissioner