



Water & Sewer  
Coordinator

# Town of North Smithfield

Memorial Town Building

P.O. Box 248

Slatersville, Rhode Island 02876

**Town Council denied  
Feb 18 2020 due to time  
that has passed since  
the bills were issued.**

**TABLED TO FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

**Ms. Ferdinand going before Town  
Council on February 3, 2020**

January 7, 2020

To: North Smithfield Town Council  
From: Maura Beck, North Smithfield Water & Sewer Coordinator  
*On behalf of the North Smithfield Sewer Commission*  
Re: Sewer use charge appeal denied by Sewer Commission December 18, 2019

On December 18, 2019 a sewer tax appeal was heard by the North Smithfield Sewer Commission. The basis of this appeal is listed below:

- 1) The home at 77 Williams St has been billed sewer use as a 2-family home for as far back as my utility billing records go. Ms. Joyce Ferdinand bought this home in May of 2017. She received a 2017, 2018, and 2019 Sewer Use bill -- each indicating 2 units were being billed. She made payments on the 2017 and 2018 bills.
- 2) When the Tax Collector spoke with Ms. Ferdinand in early December 2019 regarding payment options for the delinquent 2019 use charges, she mentioned to Ms. Ferdinand that the home was billed as a 2 unit. Once I investigated and could find no evidence of the reason the home was billed as a 2 family and that it is taxed as a 1 family, the Tax Collector abated the 2019 bill and a supplemental bill for 1 unit was issued.
- 3) Ms. Ferdinand also asked to receive a credit for 1 unit's fee from her 2017 and 2018 bill. The total credit, if granted, would be \$999.89. A request for credit from previous years' bills is out of the Tax Collector's jurisdiction and the matter was referred to the Sewer Commission.
- 4) This appeal was heard by the Sewer Commission and denied due to the policy which states appeals must be made within 30 business days of the bill issue date. The 2017 bill was issued July 15, 2017 and the 2018 bill was issued July 15, 2018.

Per the 2009 North Smithfield Sewer Ordinance, "....the Town Council shall serve as a Board of Sewer Appeals. The Board of Sewer Appeals shall consider appeals from decisions of the Board of Sewer Commissions....". **Ms. Ferdinand is asking for your reconsideration of her appeal and will be presenting her case to you at your next available meeting.**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Maura Beck  
Water & Sewer Coordinator  
Town of North Smithfield RI  
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