

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING

ABATEMENT AGENDA

February 26, 2020

1. Call to Order 6:00 p.m.
2. Remind those present the meeting will be audio taped.
3. Role Call and BCA oath:
"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly hear and determine all matters at issue relating to the abatement of taxes and other levies submitted for my decision."
4. Approve/Amend the agenda.
5. Approve meeting minutes from Tax Grievance Hearing September 4, 2019.
6. Administer abatement oath to BCA
7. Hear the requests from applicants and Town Treasurer.
8. Other Business: -
 - a. Immediately following this meeting there will be a Checklist Update meeting for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Elections and the Annual BUUSD vote.
 - b. Mark your calendar for the Municipal Town Caucus on Monday, March 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at the Barre Town Municipal Building. Local office petitions due on Monday, March 30, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.
 - c. Please sign up to do poll work on March 3, 2020 if you have not.
 - d. Any other business to come before the Board.
9. Adjourn

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES

The duly warned Board of Abatement Meeting was held on February 26, 2020, Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL - Chair Malone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and proceeded with the role call. This meeting is being audio taped. Be sure to speak distinctly and state your name for the record.

The following members were present: Chair Paul Malone, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Pearl Bugbee, William Bugbee, Charles "Chip" Castle, Jeanne Daniele, Norma Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Ed Paquin, Jay Perkins, Virginia Poplawski, Christopher Violette (arrived at 6:27 p.m.), R. Lee Walther, Sheila Walther, and Tom White. Members not in attendance: Jeff Blow, J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Tom Koch, Bob Nelson, Paul White, and Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

Others present were Peter Perrault and Kathy Robinson (representing Michael Cota).

AGENDA APPROVAL - On a motion by William Bugbee, seconded by Norma Malone, the Board of Abatement voted approve the amended agenda as follows:

1. to table action on the approval of the September 4, 2019 Tax Grievance Hearing Minutes as they were not included in the packet.

The following members were not present for the vote: Jeff Blow, J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Tom Koch, Bob Nelson, Chris Violette, Paul White, and Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF February 26, 2020 continued:

BOARD OATHS - Roll call was completed and the clerk administered the oath to those members present: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly hear and determine all matters at issue relating to abatement of taxes and other levies submitted for my decision. So help God (or under the pains and penalties of perjury). It is noted for the record that Chris Violette was administered the oath upon his arrival at 6:27 p.m.

ABATEMENT APPLICATION ITEMS
and
DELIBERATIVE SESSION

With no guests present: *On a motion by Lee White, seconded by Norma Malone, the Board of Abatement voted to go into deliberative session for all applications presented at this meeting. The following members were not present for the vote: Jeff Blow, J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Tom Koch, Bob Nelson, Chris Violette, Paul White, and Assessor Russ Beaudoin.*

On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by Ed Paquin, the Board of Abatement voted to come out of deliberative session at 7:28 p.m. The following members were not present for the vote: Jeff Blow, J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Tom Koch, Bob Nelson, Paul White, and Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

A motion was made by Lee White, and duly seconded to reconvene the Board of Abatement meeting. The following members were not present for the vote: Jeff Blow, J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Tom Koch, Bob Nelson, Paul White, and Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

DECISIONS - The following decisions which were rendered while the Board of Abatement was in deliberative session.

Wells, Thomas & Christa - The request was to abate \$358.73 for an ambulance charge, Run #19-5224, date of service April 7, 2019 based on financial hardship. The Board of Abatement denied the request citing the documents provided did not support the request and recommended the party contact the Barre Town Delinquent Tax Collector to set up a payment arrangement.

Bradley, Ian & Christine - The request was to abate all delinquent sewer use charges (\$4,908.52) citing financial hardship. The Board of Abatement voted to abate the penalties only on the delinquent charges (\$2,098.43) and to advise the applicant to contact the Barre Town Delinquent Tax Collector to set up a payment arrangement for the remaining balance.

Griffith, Misty L. - The request was to abate an ambulance charge, Run #20-176, in the amount of \$236.59 stating the person is deceased and there is no estate. The Board of Abatement voted to abate the \$236.59 citing the person liable for the debt is deceased.

Cushing, Ronald Jr. & Sylvia - The request is to abate property tax, sewer use charge, and water charges in the amount of \$15,000.00. New information was provided just prior to the meeting and distributed by the Town Clerk. Given the request is very large and there was a large amount of materials presented at the last minute, the Board of Abatement decided to table the request to the next meeting. This will allow time for review and make a well-informed decision.

Cookson, Scott & Tammy - The request was to abate the penalties paid citing financial hardship. The Board of Abatement voted to deny the request citing the evidence presented did not support the request (missing information). The applicant is to be advised that a "complete" packet could be submitted for the next meeting.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF February 26, 2020 continued:

Fassett, Tammy - The request was to abate penalties in the amount of \$2,766.87 citing financial hardship. After abatement a balance of \$5,080.11 would remain. The Board of Abatement voted to grant the abatement and recommended the applicant contact the Barre Town Delinquent Tax Collector to set up a payment arrangement.

TOWN TREASURER ABATEMENT REQUESTS

Gauthier, Wendall Sr. - The request is for ambulance service, Run #19-17293, with a remaining balance after insurance payment of \$49.00. Confirmation of the patient death and there was no estate were noted. The Board of Abatement voted to approve the request to abate the ambulance bill of Wendall Gauthier Sr., Run #19-17293, in the amount of \$49.00 citing the person liable for the bill has died.

Town of Barre - The Town purchased 6 Maple Street, South Barre at Tax Sale on November 20, 2018. The property was not redeemed and the Town took legal ownership of the property on November 27, 2019 (Book 307, Page 460). During the one-year redemption period property taxes and sewer use charges have become delinquent. Since the Town is tax exempt the Treasurer is requested the charges be abated as follows:

FY	Type	Install #	Principal	5%	8%	1%	Total
18-19	Property	2	673.67	33.68	53.89	94.36	855.60
18-19	Property	3	673.67	33.68	53.89	74.14	835.38
18-19	Property	4	673.66	33.68	53.89	53.92	815.15
19-20	Property	1	698.29	34.91	55.86	34.90	823.96
19-20	Property	2	698.29	34.91	55.86	13.96	803.02
19-20	Property	3	698.29	34.91	0.00	0.00	733.20
19-20	Property	4	698.30	00.00	0.00	0.00	698.30
Totals			4,814.17	205.77	273.39	271.28	5,564.61

FY	Type	Install#	Principal	5%	8%	1%	Total
18-19	Sewer	2	158.00	7.90	12.64	17.38	195.92
19-20	Sewer	1	158.00	7.90	12.64	7.90	186.44
19-20	Sewer	2	158.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	158.00
Totals			474.00	15.80	25.28	25.28	540.36

The Board of Abatement voted to approve the request and abate property taxes in the amount of \$5,564.61 and sewer use charges (\$540.36) on the property known as 6 Maple Street, Tax Map 026 Lot 044-00citing the collection would create an undue expense for the Town.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk-Treasurer reminded Board members that immediately following this meeting there will be a checklist update meeting and that on March 3, 2020 the Presidential Primary and Annual BUUSD election will be held. Please let the Clerk know when you can work.

On Monday, March 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m. the Town Bi-Partisan Caucus will be held. The deadline for local elected office petitions will be Monday, March 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office.

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF February 26, 2020 continued:
ADJOURN**

On a motion by Tom Koch, seconded by JP Isabelle, the Board of Civil Authority voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Those not present for the vote were: W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, Edward Paquin, Jay Perkins, Christopher Violette, Paul White, Tom White and Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

These are the minutes as taken by the Clerk of the Board.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

APPENDIX - BOARD OF ABATEMENT OATHS

**TOWN OF BARRE - ABATEMENT MEETING
OATH OF BOARD MEMBERS
February 26, 2020**

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly hear and determine all matters at issue at issue relating to the abatement of taxes and other levies submitted for my decision. So help me God (or under the pains and penalties of Perjury).

Name	Signature
Blow, Jeff	
Bugbee, Pearl	<i>Pearl Bugbee</i>
Bugbee, William	<i>William Bugbee</i>
Castle, Charles	<i>Charles Castle</i>
Daniele, Jeanne	<i>Jeanne Daniele</i>
Isabelle, J. Guy	Absent
Isabelle, J.P.	
Kelty, Donna	<i>Donna Kelty</i>
Koch, Thomas F.	Absent
Nelson, Bob	
Malone, Norma	<i>Norma Malone</i>
Malone, Paul	<i>Paul Malone</i>
Mitchell, W. John "Jack"	<i>W. John Mitchell</i>
Paquin, Edward	<i>Edward Paquin</i>
Perkins, Jay	<i>Jay Perkins</i>
Poplawski, Virginia	<i>Virginia Poplawski</i>
Violette, Christopher	<i>Christopher Violette</i>
Walther, R. Lee	<i>R Lee Walther</i>
Walther, Sheila	<i>Sheila Walther</i>
White, Paul	Absent
White Thomas	<i>Tom White</i>
Assessor Russ Beaudoin	Absent

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