

**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY
ABATEMENT AGENDA**

November 1, 2018

1. Call to Order 6:30 p.m.
2. Amendments to the Agenda (if needed)
3. Reminder: This meeting is being audio taped. Be sure to speak distinctly and state your name for the record.
4. 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."
5. Approve Tax Grievance hearing minutes of October 2, 2018.
6. Review applicant requests.
7. Review Treasurer requests.
8. Discuss amending Abatement Application - Income/Expense Statement.
9. Town-wide conflict of interest policy Committee - representative needed.
10. Other Business: -
 - a. General Election and Special School election will be held on November 6, 2018. Let Sheila, Ginny, or Pearl know if you can work.
 - b. Next meeting will be a checklist update immediately following this hearing.
 - c. Other business which should come before this Board.
11. Adjourn

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 2018**

The duly warned Board of Abatement Meeting was held on November 1, 2018, Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

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

Also present was applicant Bill Sugarman.

CALL TO ORDER - Vice Chair Violette called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and proceeded with the role call. He noted the meeting is being audio taped. Be sure to speak distinctly and state your name for the record.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board members were administered the oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly hear and determine all matters at issue relating to abatement of

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF November 1, 2018 continued:

taxes and other levies submitted for my decision. So help God (or under the pains and penalties of perjury).

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The agenda, by consensus, was accepted as amended: a) add two additional items to the Treasurer's requests (#4 and #5); and 2) add a provision that any applicant who is present will be heard first regardless of their placement on the agenda.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Edward Paquin, seconded by William Bugbee, the Board of Civil Authority voted to approve the Tax Grievance Hearing minutes of October 2, 2018 with the following corrections:

- *Page 1, Role Call, remove the second listing for Norma Malone; and*
- *Page 2, first paragraph, first sentence, delete the name of White and insert the name of Walther.*

Those not present for the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Paul Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, and Interim Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

ABATEMENT APPLICATION ITEMS

4. Bill and Nathalie Sugarman
 100 Abbott Avenue
 Tax Map 035 Lot 004-00
 Request: \$60.26 for property and sewer

Mr. Sugarman was present and administered his oath. During his testimony to the Board the following facts were noted.

- The property owner has lived in Barre Town for 9 years and has always paid their taxes on time.
- On August 16, 2018 it was realized the property owner had forgotten to pay their property tax which was due on the 15th.
- The property owner contacted the Town Treasurer and was informed she had no authority to waive/forgive a penalty. The only recourse was to make a request to the Board of Abatement.
- The property tax and sewer installments were both paid on the 16th with a 5% penalty totaling \$60.26.
- The abatement request is based that the collection would work an injustice.

Mr. Sugarman was informed the Board will enter deliberative session to discuss all requests. He will be notified in writing of the Board's decision.

On a motion by Sheila Walther, seconded by Jack Mitchell, the Board of Abatement voted to close the hearing for Bill and Nathalie Sugarman. Those not present for the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Paul Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, and Interim Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

On a motion by Lee Walther, seconded by William Bugbee, the Board of Abatement voted to enter deliberative session at 6:42 p.m. Those not present for the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Paul Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, and Interim Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

On a motion by Edward Paquin, seconded by William Bugbee, the Board of Abatement voted to come out of deliberative session at 8:07 p.m. Those not present for

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF November 1, 2018 continued:

the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Paul Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, and Interim Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

DECISIONS - The following decisions were rendered while in deliberative session.

- 4. Bill and Nathalie Sugarman**
100 Abbott Avenue
Tax Map 035 Lot 004-00
Request: \$60.26 for property and sewer

The Board of Abatement voted to deny the abatement request of Bill and Nathalie Sugarman, 100 Abbott Avenue, Tax Map 035, Lot 004-00 in the amount of \$60.26 citing there were no "extenuating circumstances" to support the abatement request.

- 2. Richard and Sharon Elsworthy**
493 Websterville Road
Tax Map 025 Lot 174.00 and
Ambulance Run #18-9059.

The Board of Abatement voted to deny the abatement requests of Richard and Sharon Elsworthy, 493 Websterville Road, Tax Map 025 Lot 174.00 (water charges = \$397.07; Sewer Charges = \$339.70 and 2 ambulance bills = \$245.47) totaling \$982.24 citing there were no extenuating circumstances to support the abatement request.

- 3. Northeast Materials Group LLC**
751 Graniteville Road
Real Estate and personal property tax penalty.

The Board of Abatement voted to approve the abatement request of Northeast Materials Group LLC, 751 Graniteville Road in the amount of \$427.83 citing there was a mistake on the manifest.

- 5. W. Padraic and S. Suzanne Smith**
2 Pearl Street
Real Estate property tax penalty.

The Board of Abatement voted to deny the abatement request of W. Padraic and S. Suzanne Smith, 2 Pearl Street in the amount of \$31.66 citing the penalty was properly assessed in accordance with Town policy and there are no extenuating circumstances to support the request.

- 6. Christine Conte on behalf of a minor child**
Ambulance Trip #18-2296
Date of Service is January 11, 2018

The Board of Abatement voted to approve the abatement request of Christine Conte for the ambulance bill for Ryan, Trip #18-2296, date of service January 11, 2018 in the amount of \$2,923.00 citing the collection would work an injustice.

- 7. David & Elizabeth Robinson**
Ambulance Trip# 18-9020 and Trip #18-9379

The Board of Abatement voted to approve the request of David M. & Elizabeth Robinson for an ambulance trip #18-9020 (\$133.34) and #18-9379 (\$120.19) for a total of \$253.53 citing financial hardship.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF November 1, 2018 continued:

8. Bonnie Swift

Ambulance trip #18-10186, date of service July 29, 2018

The Board of Abatement voted to deny the abatement request for an ambulance bill further described as Trip #18-10186, date of service July 29, 2018 for Bonnie Swift citing there was not enough information to make an informed decision.

1. Michael Cota

1079 South Barre Road
Property and sewer penalties

The Board of Abatement voted to approve a request to abate the one-time penalties of 5% late charge and 8% collectors' fees which total \$2,904.59 for Michael Cota, Tax Map 015 Lot 005-00, 1079 South Barre Road citing financial hardship and recommending that said property owner contact the Barre Town Delinquent Tax Collector to have his proposed payment plan approved.

TOWN TREASURER ABATEMENT REQUESTS

The Town Clerk-Treasurer noted for the records that she will not be voting on the following request as she is the applicant.

1. For Susan Morrison - 2 ambulance bills totaling \$156.90

The Board of Abatement voted to approve the Treasurer's request to abate two ambulance bills (Trip #18-8111, date of service June 15, 2018 for \$109.23 and Trip #18-7764, date of service June 6, 2018 for \$47.67) totaling \$156.90 citing the person liable for the debt died insolvent.

2. Town of Barre/Ernest & Linda LaBrie

Land acquired by the Town of Barre through Tax Sale
Property taxes

The Board of Abatement voted to approve the request of the Treasurer to abate the property taxes and penalties for the property described as Tax Map 005 Lot 140-00, which is 3.9 acres located on Snowbridge Road, which was acquired by tax sale for the period April 2016 through June 30, 2019 in the amount of \$798.28 (\$694.66 principal plus penalties of \$103.62) citing the tax is not properly assessed.

3. Town of Barre - miscellaneous

The Town has several miscellaneous billings which have been deemed uncollectible and should be removed from the books. The table below describes the items and dollars requested.

The Board of Abatement voted to approve the request of the Treasurer to abate the following miscellaneous items citing the collection of the levies would create an undue expense for the Town.

Name	Description	Acct #	Principal	Interest	Total
X Bernier, Wayne	1999 - Shoulder harness	7361	46.99	59.22	106.21
X Bernier, Wayne	2002 dental premium	7361	315.46	396.96	712.42
**Copeland, Timothy	2015 winter ticket	8112	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Copeland, Timothy	2016 winter ticket	8112	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Courchaine,	2016 parking ticket	10083	15.00	11.35	26.35

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF November 1, 2018 continued:

Amber					
**Courchaine, Amber	2016 parking ticket	10083	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Edwards, Stephanie	2016 winter ticket	7359	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Hernandez, Laura	2006 guardrail damage	8333	399.56	276.00	675.56
**Isco Industries LLC	2000 bal pipe inv-part pymt \$17,515 in 2001	7360	6,949.40	7,643.90	14,593.30
☹☹☹Isco Industries LLC	2000 bal pd on 7-28-10 per CRR with calcium chloride in trade	7360	3,607.46	3,967.70	7,575.16
☹Plant, Lester	2017 winter ticket - deceased	8122	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Routhier, Celeste	2011 winter ticket	8937	15.00	15.55	30.55
**Savoia, Christian	2017 winter ticket	10132	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Smith, Jessica	2016 winter ticket	10090	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Stevens, Shellie	2017 winter ticket	10091	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Stevens, Shellie	2017 winter ticket	10091	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Stratton, Shelby	2017 winter ticket	10092	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Willett, Jennifer	2012 winter ticket	8945	15.00	11.35	26.35
**Young, Richard	2016 prohibit pkg	10094	15.00	11.35	26.35

Key for Table above

** No current mailing address, unable to locate, age. The collection would create an undue expense for the Town.

☹ Decease, no estate. The person liable for the levy is deceased.

☹☹☹ The bill was paid with an exchange for services. The collection would work an injustice.

X The bills are disputed, due to age they have been deemed uncollectible by the Bookkeeping Firm. There is no reasonable probability the levy can be collected.

4. Town of Barre - Joshua Smith

Water (former Websterville Fire District #3) - new owner as of June 2018.
Meter issue

The Board of Abatement voted to abate \$35.59 of the Town of Barre November 15, 2018 water bill for Joshua Smith, 62 Church Hill Road citing the collection would work an injustice.

5. Town of Barre - Wemitt

Ambulance bill - Trip #18-11168, date of service August 13, 2018

The Board of Abatement voted to abate the ambulance bill of Marilyn S. Wemitt, Trip #18-11168, date of service August 13, 2018 in the amount of \$200.00 citing the person liable for the debt died insolvent.

AMENDMENT ABATEMENT APPLICATION

Discussion arose at the last meeting regarding amending the Income/Expense Statement (pages 3 and 4 of the application). The Clerk informed the Board this was an

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF November 1, 2018 continued:

actionable item which had not been warned. The Board reviewed the requested amendments (improve column headings by adding "monthly" and add "wood" to the heating list of items).

On a motion by Jay Perkins, seconded by William Bugbee, the Board of Abatement voted to amend the Income/Expense statement as presented to become effective immediately. Those not present for the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Paul Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, and Interim Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

OTHER BUSINESS

General and Special School Elections: The BCA approved polling place plans call for eight check-in tables during a General Election. However with the difficulty in finding workers she is asking if the Board would approve reducing the number of check-in tables (one-time request) to 6. If the request is approved the immediate items to focus on would be changes for signage and reconfiguring the check-in checklist. Recruitment of poll workers will need more discussion than time permits this evening.

On a motion by Tom White, seconded by Sheila Walther, the Board of Civil Authority voted to reduce the number of check-in tables at the polling place on November 6, 2018 from eight (8) to six (6). Those not present for the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Paul Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, and Interim Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

Due to having two elections it was noted that the early ballots will be at the polling place upon opening (7:00 a.m.) to allow ample time for processing. The counting of early ballots is a process which needs to be revisited in the near future.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Ed Paquin and seconded by Tom White, the Board of Abatement voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Those not present for the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Paul Malone, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Bob Nelson, and Interim Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

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

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

(See next page for administered oaths)

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF November 1, 2018 continued:

APPENDIX - BOARD OF ABATEMENT OATHS

**TOWN OF BARRE - ABATEMENT MEETING
OATH OF BOARD MEMBERS
November 1, 2018**

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	<i>Jeff Blow</i>
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.	Absent
Kelty, Donna	<i>Donna Kelty</i>
Nelson, Bob	Absent
Malone, Norma	<i>Norma Malone</i>
Malone, Paul	Absent
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>
Ricks, Dotty	<i>Dottie Ricks</i>
Violette, Christopher	<i>Chris Violette</i>
Walther, R. Lee	<i>R. Lee Walther</i> Absent
Walther, Sheila	<i>Sheila Walther</i>
White, Paul	<i>Paul White</i>
White Thomas	<i>White Thomas</i>
Assessor Joseph Levesque	Absent
<i>Russell Gaudoin</i>	<i>Russell Gaudoin</i>