

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING

ABATEMENT AGENDA June 2, 2021

1. Call to order. 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve/amend the agenda.
3. Roll Call & 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. Consider approving the Checklist meeting minutes of May 5, 2021.
5. Review Applications / Hear Requests.
6. Review summary of S.15 Election Law changes
7. Other Business as may come before the Board:
 - A) Odd number year-must have a Checklist Purge meeting before September 1, 2021
 - B) Assessor Grievance dates are not scheduled yet.
 - C) Meeting postcards forthcoming.
 - D) Any other business.
 - E) Proposed improvements to Abatement process
 - F) Review of procedures for June 9, 2021 election
8. Adjourn.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES

The duly warned Board of Abatement Meeting was held on June 2, 2021, at the South Barre Fire Station, 528 South Barre Road at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL - Chair Malone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and proceeded with the Roll call. This meeting is being audio taped.

The following members attended: Chair Paul Malone, Town Clerk Tina Lunt, Edward Paquin, William Bugbee, Jay Perkins, Justin Bolduc, Virginia Poplawski, Charles "Chip" Castle, Thomas Koch, Jeanne Daniele, Norma Malone, J. Guy Isabelle, Lori Cohen, JP Isabelle, Donna Kelty, Bob Nelson, Paul White, Lee Walther and Sheila Walther.

AGENDA APPROVAL - *On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Board of Abatement voted to approve the agenda as amended: Item #7 (E), add proposed improvements to Abatement process. Item #7 (F), add review of procedures for the June 9, 2021 Election. The following members were not present for the vote: Jeff Blow, W. John "Jack" Mitchell and William Bugbee.*

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Ed Paquin, seconded by Chip Castle, the Board of Civil Authority voted to approve the Checklist meeting minutes of May 5, 2021 with the amendment of the checklist period date changed to February 25, 2021 - May 5, 2021. The following members were not present for the vote: Jeff Blow, William Bugbee and W. John "Jack" Mitchell.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF June 2, 2021 continued:

BOARD OATHS - Roll call was completed and the Clerk administered the oath to the members: "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. It is noted for the record that William Bugbee was administered the oath upon his arrival at 6:16 p.m.

ABATEMENT DECISIONS

DECISIONS - The following decisions were rendered.

1. Randy & Deborah Duprey
Sewer use charges.
Tax Map 029/020.00
Amount: \$1,039.71

The Board of Abatement voted to deny the application, due to missing information.

2. Vicki Maurais
Property tax charges - penalty fee's
Tax Map 006/070.00
Amount: \$109.01

The Board of Abatement voted to deny the application, due to incomplete information.

3. Christine Bradley
Sewer use charges.
Tax Map 038/073.00
Amount: \$2,529.07

The Board of Abatement voted to deny the application, based on the application being incomplete.

4. The Treasurer presented five bills for abatement. The Board of Abatement abated the following bills citing the reasoning noted below.
 - A) James Zampieri, Run 20-9023 date of service August 2, 2020 and Run 20-9027 date of service August 3, 2020 in the total amount of \$249.44. No insurance available. No Estate.
 - B) Parcel ID 005/058.00 Birchwood Park Dr. Lot (1.07 Acres), date of service April 16, 2021 in the amount of \$881.07. No bill should have been generated, Town purchased at tax sale and never removed from tax roll by assessor.
 - C) Albert Perreault, Run 20-8765, date of service July 26, 2020 in the amount of \$134.43. No Estate.
 - D) Christopher Lewis, Run 20-4699, date of service April 23, 2020 in the amount of \$892.40. VA Insurance. VA denied payment. Town billed to New Hampshire instead of VT and time lapsed for payment.
 - E) James Beverly, Run 19-16623, date of service November 7, 2019 in the amount of \$627.55. VA Insurance billed to NH Medicaid. Time-lapse for filing and denied.

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF June 2, 2021 continued:
SUMMARY OF S.15 ELECTION LAW CHANGES**

A summary of S.15 Election Law changes were reviewed by the Board members. A brief discussion took place regarding confirmation on some of the noted changes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Malone noted that we must have a Checklist purge meeting before September 1, 2021. Clerk Lunt confirmed that the meeting postcards are forthcoming.

Lee Walther presented Clerk Lunt with a list of proposed improvements to the Abatement process. Clerk Lunt confirmed that she is currently working on these improvements. There was discussion that the Abatement Hearing Request application and Income, Expense, Resource and Asset Statement could use some revisions. A few suggestions were noted, and Clerk Lunt will revise these forms with more guidance and instructions for future applicants.

The Board discussed the June 9, 2021 election. Donna Kelty shared the hand count process. There was discussion regarding the use of the drop-box for ballots the day before and the day of the election. Donna noted that the Town Clerk's office put a sign on the drop-box for the May 11 election and that worked well.

On a motion by Bob Nelson, seconded by Paul White, the Board of Civil Authority voted to keep the existing drop-box open to close of business (4:30pm) on the day of election, using the same sign that was used at the May 11 election.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Paul White, seconded by Bob Nelson, the Board of Civil Authority voted to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Jeff Blow and W. John "Jack" Mitchell were not present for the vote.

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

Tina Lunt, Town Clerk