

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING

ABATEMENT AGENDA

October 28, 2020

Call-in (802) 861-2663

Participant Code: 489078#

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Remind those present the meeting will be audio taped.
3. Roll Call
4. Approve/amend the agenda
5. Administer abatement oath to BCA (remember to sign their 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."
6. Hear the requests.
7. Other Business as may come before the Board:
 - A) Immediately following this meeting will be a Checklist Update meeting for the November 3, 2020 General and Presidential Election.
 - B) Any other business
9. Adjourn

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES

The duly warned Board of Abatement Meeting was held on October 28, 2020, Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room, in Lower Websterville at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL - Chair Malone called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.

It is also noted this meeting was conducted remotely and by telephone. Telephone users had issues with accessing the Teams program. Barre Town Assistant Manager will contact the telephone users prior to the next meeting to assist with resolving their connection issue(s).

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

Others present were George Cushing (agent for Ron and Sylvia Cushing) and Assistant Manager Elaine Wang (technical support).

AGENDA APPROVAL - On a motion by Jack Mitchell, seconded by William Bugbee, the Board of Abatement voted to approve the agenda as presented.

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

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF October 28, 2020 continued:

for my decision. So help me 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

6-1 Cushing, Ronald & Sylvia (agent George Cushing)
26 Violette St, Websterville, VT 05678
Tax Map 019 Lot 024-00
Continuation from February 2020.

George Cushing was present. He was reminded he is still under oath. Mr. Cushing noted that Ronald & Sylvia have been current with all levies to the Town for the past seven months (every since the Tax Sale). There was a brief discussion on how the Town came to acquire the former Websterville Fire District #3. He noted that Fire District was very inconsistent with their billing practices and feels there were meter issues. Especially given what the water bills with Barre Town are currently running. He is asking based on financial hardship and noted the income/expenses have not changed.

The Town has recently received a draft audit regarding the takeover of the Websterville Fire District. They found nothing out of the ordinary or that would cause concern. So from the Town's position, the delinquent receivable balances stated as of June 30, 2019 are valid.

Further questioning noted the home is in need of repairs. It had been a duplex and Mr. & Ms. Cushing would like to renovate. There has been no tenant since 2014. The Cushings were making payments to the Fire District over the years, but the payment amount did not cover new charges. He noted the Cushings are not in good health at this time and is hoping this Board will waive the levies that have been paid to redeem the property.

The Board thanked George Cushing for coming and was informed he would be notified in writing of this Boards decision.

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

On a motion by William Bugbee, seconded by Norma Malone, the Board of Abatement voted to go into deliberative session to discuss the applications presented. Bob Nelson, Christopher Violette, and Assessor Russ Beaudoin were not present.

On a motion by JP Isabelle, seconded by Pearl Bugbee, the Board of Abatement voted to come out of deliberative session at 8:17 p.m. Bob Nelson, Christopher Violette, and Assessor Russ Beaudoin were not present.

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

6-1: Ronald & Sylvia Cushing: The Board of Abatement continued their review of the documents provided this past February. There is no evidence to prove there was a manifest/clerical error in the Websterville Fire District water bill calculations. The Cushings have redeemed their property from Tax Sale and are paying all installments on time. Therefore, the Board voted to deny the request citing there is nothing past due with the Town and the evidence provided is not sufficient to support the criteria selected on the application.

6-2: Richard Theken, 17 Windridge Drive, request for abatement of penalties and interest. The Board of Abatement voted to deny the request citing the evidence provided is not sufficient to support the criteria selected on the application. Discussion noted the Town provides many methods of payment to include an "auto pay" option so you never miss a due date.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF October 28, 2020 continued:

6-3: Nam Ping Chan, 80 Upper Usle Road, request for abatement of penalties and interest. The Board of Abatement voted to deny the request citing the evidence provided is not sufficient to support the criteria selected on the application. The Board of Abatement recognizes there are issues with the United States Postal Service. This is why the Town offers many ways to make a payment other than using the Postal Service.

6-4: SBE Inc, formerly 81 Parker Road, Wilson Industrial Park, request abatement of personal property tax. The Board voted to deny the request as the application was defective in that it did not select an appropriate criteria.

6-5: Thomas Baldwin, Ambulance service, Trip 19-18977 in the amount of \$250.00. The Board voted to deny the request as the application was defective in that it did not select the appropriate criteria. The patient was urged to correct the application and resubmit.

6-6: Wilfred Bell, Ambulance service, Trip 20-4927 in the amount of \$250.00. The Board denied the request stating the evidence provided does not support the criteria request.

6-7: Kevin Cliché, Ambulance service, Trip 19-18930 in the amount of \$1,425.05. The Board voted to abate the bill citing financial hardship.

TOWN TREASURER ABATEMENT REQUESTS

6-8: The Treasurer presented the following items which were approved for abatement. It is noted that all Ambulance Bills and Invoices listed below were voted on in one motion and not taken as separate actions.

- Ambulance Bill of John Morrison, date of service January 31, 2020, Trip #20-1421, in the amount of \$391.19 citing the person liable for the bill is deceased.
- Ambulance bill of Dana Molleur, date of service February 8, 2020, Trip #20-3313, in the amount of \$1,584.64 citing the person liable for the bill is deceased.
- Ambulance bill of Susan Smith, date of service November 14, 2018, Trip #18-18215, in the amount of \$1,841.00 citing the collection would work an injustice.
- Ambulance bill of Shaun Sweet, date of service October 3, 2018, Trip #18-18199, in the amount of \$675.50 citing the collection would work an injustice.
- . Three (3) ambulance bills of William Holmes (Trips # 20-445 in the amount of \$321.44, # 20-3608 in the amount of \$163.04, and #20-3605 in the amount of \$123.85) totaling \$608.33 citing the person liable for the bills is deceased.
- Invoice #16-108 dated December 9, 2015 for Jacob Rollins, Winter Parking Ban ticket #452 plus late charge totaling \$25.00 citing the collection would create an undue cost for the Town.
- Invoice #18-100 dated January 30, 2018 for Matthew Marsh, Winter Parking Ban ticket #520 plus late charge totaling \$25.00 citing the collection would create an undue cost for the Town.
- Invoice #18-104 dated February 13, 2018 for Sara Davis, Winter Parking Ban ticket #524 plus late charge totaling \$25.00 citing the collection would create an undue cost for the Town.
- Invoice #18-112 dated March 15, 2018 for Teagan Rich, Winter Parking Ban ticket #558 plus late charge totaling \$25.00 citing the collection would create an undue cost for the Town.
- Invoice #20-033 dated September 30, 2019 for Derrick Megrath, Parking ticket #563 plus late charge totaling \$25.00 citing the collection would create an undue cost for the Town.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF October 28, 2020 continued:

- Invoice #20-034 dated September 30, 2019 for Jeffrey A. Pierson, Parking ticket #538 plus late charge totaling \$25.00 citing the collection would create an undue cost for the Town.
- Invoice #20-090 dated May 22, 2020 for Kayla Turner, Parking ticket #1001 plus late charge totaling \$15.00 citing the collection would create an undue cost for the Town.

After announcing the results of the Treasurer's Items, Board member Jeff Blow asked that it be entered into the record that "if he had realized the items were being voted on in were in bulk, he would have voted no." The Clerk noted that had Mr. Blow cast a no vote, the motion would still pass.

OTHER BUSINESS

Immediately following this meeting there will be a Board of Civil Authority Meeting to update the checklist to be used at the November 3, 2020 General Election.

ADJOURN

On a motion by William Bugbee, seconded by Norma Malone, the Board of Civil Authority voted to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Bob Nelson, Christopher Violette, and Assessor Russ Beaudoin were not present.

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

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

APPENDIX - BOARD OF ABATEMENT OATHS

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF October 28, 2020 continued:

**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>Thomas White</i>
Assessor Russ Beaudoin	Absent