

Board of Abatement
Bennington, VT

Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2016

Members Present: Cassie Barbeau, Susan Beal, Barbara Bluto, Don Campbell, Jeanne Conner, Deborah Giroux, Michele Hogan, Tom Jacobs, Jeannie Jenkins, BJ Maroney, Anne Mook, Mary Morrissey, Joan Pinsonneault, Marjorie Robinson, David Shaffe, Kayla Thompson

Also Present: John Antognioni, Chief Assessor, and Steve Crawford, resident.

Purpose of Meeting: to consider annual abatement requests

**Meeting called to order by Board Chair, David Shaffe, at 5:01PM.

**David read the oath to Board Members and circulated the oath for signatures.

**Joan explained the Board must vote on whether to issue refunds for any abatements granted, or carry a credit. Due to housekeeping issues, it is easier to issue a refund. Cassie made the motion to issue refunds to anyone receiving an abatement, seconded by Mary, motion passed unanimously.

**Steve Crawford, a resident requesting abatement due to a fire early in 2016 was present. John Antognioni first presented the information for that abatement request. Anne made the motion to grant abatement, seconded by Barb, motion passed unanimously.

**John Antognioni presented several other properties damaged in part or in whole by fire during the calendar year.

**108 Grant Street, March 2016

**645 Water Street, April 2016

**366 North Branch Street, July 2016

**226 Northside Drive, August 2016

**Mary made the motion to grant abatement on these properties damaged by fire, seconded by BJ, motion passed unanimously.

**Joan presented her list for abatement of properties with errors, mobile homes removed and condemned. Barb made the motion to grant abatement as requested, seconded by Anne, motion passed unanimously.

**Cassie and Joan jointly presented three additional requests.

**Karen Morrison made a mistake in filing her homestead declaration and state payment forms with the State of Vermont. After discussion, the Board made the determination it is a State issue, not something the Town can abate and refund to the property owner. Although the Board feels for Ms. Morrison and would like to refer her to a tax advocate with the State of Vermont, Tom made the motion to deny the request for abatement, seconded by Barb, motion passed unanimously.

**Louise McClay requested abatement due to inability to pay because of many health issues and limited income. After a brief review and discussion of potential equity in the property based on the current

assessment and land records, the Board felt Mrs. McClay did not qualify for abatement. Barb made the motion to deny, seconded by BJ, motion passed unanimously.

**Kathleen Davey submitted a request for abatement due to inability to pay because of disabilities and limited income. After three years delinquency, this property has since been sold at tax sale and there are currently no taxes owed to the Town. The only money owed would be direct to the buyer of the property and there are no taxes to abate. Mary made the motion to deny the request, seconded by Cassie, motion passed unanimously.

**With no further business, Mary made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Cassie, motion passed unanimously and meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassandra Barbeau". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Cassandra Barbeau
Vice-Chair