

Board of Abatement
Bennington, VT

Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2017

Members Present: Cassandra Barbeau, Barbara Bluto, Jim Carroll, Robert Ebert, Deborah Giroux, Thomas Jacobs, Jeannie Jenkins, Michele Hogan, Albert Krawczyk, Anne Mook, Mary Morrissey, Joan Pinsonneault, Marjorie Robinson, David Shaffe and Kayla Thompson

Purpose of Meeting: To hear annual requests for abatement

**Meeting called to order by Board Chair, David Shaffe at 5:02 PM.

**Board members were sworn in by Board Chair, David Shaffe, and the oath circulated for signatures.

**John P. Lemieux, 130 Pine Circle submitted a request for abatement based on inability to pay. He is on social security and was not aware of the homestead declaration and property tax adjustment eligibility. His letter was submitted in June and at that time, delinquency is over \$11,000.00. Since then, according to treasurer Joan Pinsonneault, he has made a payment agreement with the Town and has been keeping up with it. Town records indicate equity in the property as well.

**Barbara Bluto made the motion to deny the request for abatement, seconded by Anne Mook, motion passed unanimously.

**Louise McClay, 321 Beech Street, submitted a request for abatement based on inability to pay. She also noted her husband often maintains the ball field and has therefore saved the Town money. The family has had many health problems over the last couple of years and is on a limited income. There is approximately a \$3,700.00 delinquency as well as about \$1,400.00 in unpaid water and sewer. Although a homestead declaration has been filed, there is no state payment being supplied due to a business tax situation with the Vermont Tax Department, and possibly due to the Guardianship ownership in place. Ms. McClay states that due to some past credit issues, she has been unable to refinance the loan. There is no payment agreement in place. Several Board members suggested agencies that may be able to assist in tax filing and personal assistance. Town records indicate equity in the property.

**Thomas Jacobs made the motion to deny the request for abatement, seconded by Robert Ebert, motion passed by majority.

**Joan Pinsonneault, Town Treasurer, presented her list for abatement, which consists of mobile homes removed, and small bill adjustments, totaling \$251.61.

**Mary Morrissey made the motion to accept the requests for abatement, seconded by Jim Carroll, motion passed unanimously.

**With no further business, Cassie Barbeau made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Albert Krawczyk, motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:41PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra Barbeau