



# Town of Barre VERMONT

## BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING

June 21, 2023

### AGENDA

1. Call to order.....6:00 p.m.
2. Roll call.
3. Approve the agenda.
4. Approve the February 1, 2023 meeting minutes.
5. Consider approving amendments of the Board of Abatement Hearing and Code of Conduct Policy
6. Hear requests for abatement.
7. Public comment.
8. Adjourn

### BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES

The duly warned Board of Abatement meeting was held at the Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room, in Lower Websterville on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

**Board of Abatement Member Present:** JP Isabelle, Donna Kelty, Tina Lunt, Norma Malone, Paul Malone, Mike Gilbar, Bob Nelson, Virginia Poplawski, Dean Preston, Fred Thumm, R. Lee Walther, Sheila Walther, Paul White, and Russ Beaudoin.

**Board of Abatement Members Absent:** Jeff Blow, Justin Bolduc, Lori Cohen, Jeanne Daniele, Guy Isabelle, Tom Koch, Rob LaClair, Jennifer Allard, and Ed Paquin.

**Others Present:** Tom and Lynn Crawford.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Malone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and proceeded with roll call.

#### **APPROVE THE AGENDA:**

*On a motion by JP Isabelle, seconded by Paul White, the Board of Abatement voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.*

1. Move item #7 public comment to item #4
2. Rotate item #5 and item #6

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

#### **APPROVE THE MINUTES:**

*On a motion by JP Isabelle, seconded by Paul White, the Board of Abatement voted to approve the February 1, 2023 meeting minutes with amendments as provided to the Clerk. Mike Gilbar abstained.*

**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING OF June 21, 2023 continued:**

**ABATEMENT REQUESTS:**

1. Thomas & Lynn Crawford

Abatement request for: Property Taxes and Sewer Charges

Amount: Property Tax: \$841.46 Sewer: \$72.52 Total: \$913.98

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford were present and sworn in by Clerk Lunt.

Mr. & Mrs. Crawford lost their home to a fire on April 17, 2023. They shared that their home located at 729 East Barre Road was a complete loss. They are looking to rebuild within the next year. There is no longer a house on the property, and Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are requesting abatement of property taxes for the fourth quarter installment of the 2022 tax bill, and abatement of sewer usage charges for the second semi-annual installment-both prorated and abatement of future property taxes related to the house.

Assessor Russ Beaudoin presented a lister card to Board members. He shared this card represents the value of the property without the home. Mr. Beaudoin noted as of April 1 next year's grand list will show no value for the home. During further discussion, it was discovered by the Board that the Assessor does not have the authority to remove the home from the grand list after the grand list has been lodged. Such changes would need to be completed through Errors and Omissions at the Selectboard level. *32 V.S.A. § 4261*

The Crawford's have requested an amount of \$841.46 to be abated of the 2022 fourth quarterly tax installment. Clerk Lunt informed the Board that the original proration had been recalculated due to an error. She stated that she had previously provided Mr. and Mrs. Crawford with the proration amount using the 2022 tax bill which included the house and land. The correct property tax proration is \$659.53, for the house only.

Mrs. Walther asked that the property taxes and sewer usage charge abatement be discussed separately. Sewer charges are not based on usage and even on a vacant lot, the infrastructure is still there. She encouraged the Board to have further discussion on both matters in deliberative session.

**DELIBERATIVE SESSION:**

*On a motion by R. Lee Walther, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Board of Abatement voted unanimously to move into deliberative session at 6:15 p.m.*

*On a motion by JP Isabelle, seconded by Donna Kelty, the Board of Abatement voted unanimously to come out of deliberative session at 6:44 p.m.*

**DECISIONS:**

The following decision was rendered.

1. Thomas & Lynn Crawford

729 East Barre Road

Tax Map: 006/072.00

Amount: \$913.98

**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING OF June 21, 2023 continued:**

*The Board of Abatement voted to abate property taxes in the amount of \$659.53 on the property of Thomas & Lynn Crawford located at 729 East Barre Road, Tax Map 006/072.00 citing the home that was lost due to the fire on April 17, 2023.*

*The Board of Abatement voted to deny the sewer abatement request for Thomas & Lynn Crawford located at 729 East Barre Road 006/072.00, Tax Map 006/072.00 citing the evidence presented did not support the criteria selected by the applicant (taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year). The Board noted that sewerage is not based on usage and the infrastructure is still there.*

**ABATEMENT HEARING AND CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY:**

A copy of the Abatement Hearing and Code of Conduct Policy was shared with Board members. Clerk Lunt stated an edit will be made to #5 of this document. The Town has adopted their own Conflicts of Interest Policy that all Boards follow. A reference in place of the previous verbiage of #5.

**ADJOURN:**

*On a motion by R. Lee Walther, seconded by Mike Gilbar, the Board of Abatement voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:46p.m.*

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

Filed in the Barre Town Clerk's Office on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_, Barre Town Clerk.  
Tina Lunt, Town Clerk