

**BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY
ABATEMENT AGENDA**

February 28, 2019

1. Call to Order 6:30 p.m.
2. Amendments to the Agenda (if needed)
3. Bi-Annual reorganization meeting (Chair/Vice Chair)
4. Role Call and 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."

5. Review applications: Applicants and Treasurer
6. Checklist Update meeting for the March 5, 2019 election
7. Other Business: -
 - a. Next meeting will be on April 9, 2019 to elect school directors for the new Barre Unified Union School District. The checklist update meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019. Should the April 4th meeting be with only 3 JPs to update the list?
 - b. New Justice of the Peace Guide published by the Secretary of State's Office will be provided at the next meeting.
 - c. Welcome to new member Tom Koch
8. Adjourn

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES.

The duly warned Board of Abatement Meeting was held on February 28, 2019, Barre Town Municipal Building, Selectboard meeting room, in Lower Websterville at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Chair Paul Malone, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Pearl Bugbee, William Bugbee, Jeanne Daniele, JP Isabelle, Tom Koch (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Norma Malone, Jay Perkins, Virginia Poplawski, Christopher Violette, R. Lee Walther, Paul White, and Tom White.

Members not in attendance: Jeff Blow, Charles "Chip" Castle, J. Guy Isabelle, Bob Nelson, Edward Paquin, Sheila Walther, and Interim Assessor Russ Beaudoin.

Also present were applicants Ronald Cushing and his brother George Cushing.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. It was noted the meeting is being audio taped. Be sure to speak distinctly and state your name for the record.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by JP Isabelle, and duly seconded by Jeanne Daniele, the agenda was approved as presented.

BI-ANNUAL REORGANIZATION

The meeting was turned over to the Clerk who called for nominations for BCA Chair.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF February 28, 2019 continued:

On a motion by JP Isabelle, seconded by Jay Perkins, Paul Malone was nominated for Chair. With no other candidates the nominations were closed and the BCA voted unanimously to appoint Paul Malone as Chair.

On a motion by JP Isabelle, seconded by Pearl Bugbee, Chris Violette was nominated for Vice Chair. With no other candidates the nominations were closed the BCA voted unanimously to appoint Chris Violette as Vice Chair.

Virginia Poplawski stated she no longer wanted to serve as Asst. Presiding Officer on Election Day. In accordance with the Barre Town Charter it states if the Town Clerk (who is the Presiding Officer) is not able to be at the polls, then a Justice of the Peace member will become the Presiding Officer. This item will be on a future agenda for discussion.

ROLE CALL AND OATH

Role call was done by Chair Malone and Board members were administered the oath: "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. So help God (or under the pains and penalties of perjury). BCA member Tom Koch arrived at 6:35 p.m. and was administered his oath separately.

ABATEMENT APPLICATION ITEMS

5-1. Ronald & Sylvia Cushing

26 Violette Street, Websterville

Tax Map 019 Lot 024-00

Abatement Request: \$24,665.84 (property, sewer, and water charges)

Ronald Cushing and his agent (brother) George Cushing were present and administered their oath.

George Cushing provided the following testimony:

- Ronald & Sylvia both have medical issues. Ronald, due to an accident, had traumatic brain injury, resulting in the inability to work.
- The Board reviewed the Income/Expense statement with the applicant.
- The Cushing's have owned the property since 1977.
- The property is scheduled for tax sale in a couple of weeks.
- There is no mortgage on the property, but it requires a lot of "work."
- This is a two unit dwelling but needs to be brought up to code before it can be rented.
- There is no "plan" in place on how to keep the taxes, etc. current should an abatement be granted.
- The request is for \$24,665.84 with no itemization being provided as to how much is property, sewer, or water. George Cushing noted the Water is \$12,307.83, the sewer is around \$2100 and the property taxes are around \$10,000. He has been in touch with Town Attorney Monte to obtain the numbers.

The Board thanked the appellants for coming in and informed them the results will be forthcoming.

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

On a motion by Lee Walther, seconded by Norma Malone, the Board of Abatement voted to enter deliberative session at 7:24 p.m. to discuss all appeals.

Chris Violette left at 7:35 p.m. for a fire call.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF February 28, 2019 continued:

On a motion by JP Isabelle and duly seconded the Board of Abatement came out of deliberative session at 7:50 p.m.

DECISIONS - The Clerk read the follow decisions which were rendered while the Board of Abatement was in deliberative session.

1. The appeal of Ronald and Sylvia Cushing, Tax Map 019 Lot 024-00, 26 Violette Street was denied as there was not enough evidence to support their request.
2. All other appeals were continued to Thursday, April 4, 2019 meeting.

CHECKLIST UPDATE MEETING

The Clerk presented the Board with a list of additions to the checklist for the period of February 14, 2019 through February 28, 2019. No action is needed. There were no deletions.

Peter Welch Carpenter	Mary A. Clifford	James Frederick Cross
Jesse T. Dindo	Matt J. Dion	Racheal K. Eberhart
Sophonria Goodrich	Crystal L. Gregoire	Emily R. Laston
Brent O Leclerc	Robert A. Little	David J. Matthei
Catherine L. McCallum	Amy D. Richard	Gowri B. Savoor

OTHER BUSINESS

The next election is April 9, 2019 for the election of School Directors for the new Barre Unified Union School District. Let Pearl and Sheila know if you can work.

There will also be a Barre Town Caucus on Monday, March 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at the Barre Town Municipal Building for the purpose of nominating candidates for the upcoming Municipal election on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

The new Secretary of State's handbook for Justice of the Peace is out and will be included in the next meeting packet.

JP's WORKING AT THE POLLING PLACE

The BCA present discussed why JP's who were on the school board, but not on the ballot were not working at the polling place. The Presiding Officer (Town Clerk) makes the determination. Kelty stated, through her many years of training, if you have to ask the question "is there a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict" then best practice is to avoid having the individual work. Two of our JPs serve on the school board. It has been the practice of Kelty that whenever ANY ballot issues arises for the school no Board members work at the polling place. It was recognized that under some circumstances (school director not on ballot or running uncontested) then he/she could work at the polls.

There was much discussion and the need to find additional individuals willing to work the polls should be a priority.

ADJOURN

On a motion by JP Isabelle, and duly seconded, the Board of Abatement voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

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

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF February 28, 2019 continued:

APPENDIX - BOARD OF ABATEMENT OATHS

**TOWN OF BARRE - ABATEMENT MEETING
OATH OF BOARD MEMBERS
February 28, 2019**

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	Absent
Bugbee, Pearl	Pearl Bugbee
Bugbee, William	William Bugbee
Castle, Charles	Absent
Daniele, Jeanne	Jeanne Daniele
Isabelle, J. Guy	Absent
Isabelle, J.P.	J.P. Isabelle
Kelty, Donna	Donna Kelty
Koch, Thomas F.	Thom F. Koch
Nelson, Bob	Absent
Malone, Norma	Norma Malone
Malone, Paul	Paul Malone
Mitchell, W. John "Jack"	W. John Mitchell
Paquin, Edward	Absent
Perkins, Jay	Jay Perkins
Poplawski, Virginia	Virginia Poplawski
Violette, Christopher	Christopher Violette
Walther, R. Lee	R. Lee Walther
Walther, Sheila	Absent
White, Paul	Paul White
White Thomas	Thomas White
Assessor Russ Beaudoin	Absent