

# BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING

## ABATEMENT AGENDA

January 27, 2021

Call-in (802) 477-1200

Via Microsoft Teams

1. Call to order 6:00 p.m.
2. Remind those present the meeting will be audio taped.  
Meeting conduct reminders:
  - Mute when not speaking.
  - Please use the "raise hand" icon when you have something to say.
  - Identify yourself when speaking.
  - Speak clearly.
3. Roll Call
4. Approve/amend the agenda.
5. Approve the Abatement and checklist meeting of October 28, 2020.
6. 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."

7. Hear the requests.
8. Other Business as may come before the Board:
  - A) Oath of Office - new term begins February 1, 2021. Return your notarized document to the Town Clerk as soon as possible. Out-going members please return your SOP binder for new members.
  - B) Next meeting will be February 24, 2021 (Checklist Update and Reorganizational meetings)
  - C) March 2, 2021 election information: Copies of correspondence from the Secretary of State regarding conducting elections for Town Meeting (March and May). The Town will also be holding a special election (yes/no question) as well. Postcard mailers are being sent to voters.
  - D) The Assessor mailed Error & Omission letters on January 14, 2021
  - E) Any other business
9. Adjourn

## BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES

The duly warned Board of Abatement Meeting was held on January 27, 2021, 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 6:08 p.m. and Secretary Kelty proceeded with the Roll 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's Assistant Manager will contact the telephone users prior to the next meeting to assist with resolving their connection issue(s).

The following members attended: Chair Paul Malone, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna Kelty, Jeff Blow Justin Bolduc, Charles "Chip" Castle, J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Norma Malone, Bob Nelson, and Ed Paquin, Jay Perkins, Virginia Poplawski, Christopher Violette, and Paul White. The following members attended by phone: Pearl Bugbee, William Bugbee,

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF January 27, 2021 continued:**

Jeanne Daniele, Tom Koch, R. Lee Walther, and Sheila Walther. Members not in attendance: Assessor Russ Beaudoin and W. John "Jack" Mitchell.

Assistant Manager Elaine Wang attended remotely to assist with IT issues.

**AGENDA APPROVAL** - *On a motion by Jeanne Daniele, seconded by Pearl Bugbee, the Board of Abatement voted to approve the agenda as amended: Item 5, add approval of the minutes for the August 5, 2020 Tax Grievance Hearing. The following members were not present for the vote: Assessor Russ Beaudoin and W. John "Jack" Mitchell.*

**MINUTE APPROVAL**

*On a motion by Ed Paquin, seconded by William Bugbee, the Board of Civil Authority voted to approve the Tax Grievance Hearing meeting minutes of August 5, 2020 with the spelling and grammatical changes as presented. Justin Bolduc abstained. Assessor Russ Beaudoin and W. John "Jack" Mitchell were not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Norma Malone, seconded by William Bugbee, the Board of Civil Authority voted to approve the Board of Abatement Meeting minutes of October 28, 2020 with the spelling and grammatical changes as presented. Bob Nelson and Lee Walther abstained. Assessor Russ Beaudoin and W. John "Jack" Mitchell were not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Pearl Bugbee, seconded by Norma Malone, the Board of Civil Authority voted to approve the Checklist Update Meeting minutes of October 28, 2020 with the spelling and grammatical changes as presented. Bob Nelson and Lee Walther abstained. Assessor Russ Beaudoin and W. John "Jack" Mitchell were not present for the vote.*

**BOARD OATHS** - Roll call was completed and the Clerk administered the oath to the members remotely: "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 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 6:19 p.m.

**DELIBERATIVE SESSION**

*With no applicants present, Ed Paquin motioned, and Pearl Bugbee seconded, for the Board of Abatement to go into deliberative session at 6:26 p.m. to discuss the applications presented. Assessor Russ Beaudoin and W. John "Jack" Mitchell were not present for the vote.*

*On a motion by Ed Paquin, and duly seconded, the Board of Abatement voted to come out of deliberative session at 7:04 p.m. Assessor Russ Beaudoin and W. John "Jack" Mitchell were not present for the vote.*

**ABATEMENT DECISIONS**

1. Justin Mantz (agent Thomas E. Copain, Esq.)  
Ambulance Bill: 17-16554, date of service December 6, 2017  
Amount: \$267.90  
The request was withdrawn.
2. Thomas M. Baldwin, Sr.  
Ambulance Bill: 19-18977, Date of service December 18, 2019  
Amount: \$250.00

The Board of Abatement voted to abate the bill of Thomas Baldwin Sr., Run 19-18977, date of service December 18, 2019, in the amount of \$250.00 citing financial hardship.

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING OF January 27, 2021 continued:**

3. Rhonda & Shawn Thygesen  
Property tax and sewer use charges.  
Tax Map 022/024.01  
Amount: \$17,120.67

The Board of Abatement continued the application of Rhonda & Shawn Thygesen to Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

4. The Treasurer presented two ambulance bills for abatement as there was no estate or insurance to bill. The Board of Abatement abated the following ambulance bills citing the person liable for the tax/levy has died.
  - A) Daniel Farnham, Run 20-6021, date of service March 9, 2020 in the amount of \$677.18.
  - B) Arnold Gallagher, Run 20-5210, date of service May 5, 2020 in the amount of \$52.46.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair reminded those present their term ends January 31, 2021. If you are a Justice of the Peace and have been re-elected please have your Oath of Office and returned to the Town prior to February 1, 2021 to legally conduct Justice of the Peace business.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to continue this Board of Abatement meeting, have a reorganizational meeting, and to hold a checklist update meeting for the March 2, 2021 election.

With COVID-19 still being an issue, the Vermont Legislature recently passed emergency legislation for the conduct of Town Meeting (March and May) elections. The BCA was provided with copies of the information provided by the Secretary of State's Office. The Town will also be holding a special election (one article - yes/no vote). Postcard mailers are being sent to all active voters on the checklist. The Election Day process was discussed briefly.

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by William Bugbee, seconded by several, the Board of Civil Authority voted to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Assessor Russ Beaudoin and W. John "Jack" Mitchell were not present for the vote.*

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

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*Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*