

Wallingford Board of Abatement
Minutes
December 21, 2020

Present: Board Members Present: Justice of the Peace: Lynn Edmunds, Judy Edmunds, Ann Buffum, Sandy Eddy, Tom Truex, Ruth Anne Barker, and Sue Thayer; Selectboard members Nelson Tift, Rose Regula, Bruce Duchesne, and Pat Pranger, Assessor John Tiffany, and Town Clerk & Treasurer Julie Sharon

The meeting was held via Zoom audio conference call.

S. Eddy called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

There were no changes or additions made to the agenda.

The minutes of the July 29, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion made by J. Edmunds and seconded by R. Barker. The motion passed unanimously.

Harnick Steven I. Trustee c/o VT DOM LLC, #0840259, Span #681-216-10463

The members read Olga Gutman's request for abatement of interest for the tax payment due on October 19, 2020. Her email stated that they bought this property in June and found out the tax bill never reached them because it was addressed to the correct address but it also contained the seller's name along with their name. The principal was paid on December 7, 2020, and J. Sharon reported that the interest has since been paid. The members were given a copy of the tax bill showing the names/ mailing address.

A. Buffum made a motion to abate the interest, which was seconded by J. Edmunds. Assessor John Tiffany indicated that V.S.A. Title 32, Chapter 123, §3651 states that "taxable real estate shall be set in the list to the last owner or possessor thereof on April 1 in each year....". J. Sharon stated that the tax bill mailed in August and the interest notices mailed in October and November have never been returned to the Town.

Burnett Burton H., #0190656, Span #681-216-10697

The members read Michelle Burnett's request for abatement. They had a fire at their home at 656 Bear Mountain Road on May 10, 2019 and were unable to live in the house until November 10, 2019. The members were also provided the loss statement from the Burnett's insurance company that reported an actual cash value of \$77,831.80 after depreciation. Assessor John Tiffany stated that based on the house value of \$106,400, it should only be taxed on 53% while it was being repaired/not lived in. This would lower the house value to \$56,400.

On a motion made by P. Pranger and seconded by R. Regula, the Committee moved into executive session at 6:01 p.m. The Committee came out of executive session at 6:07 p.m.

B. Duchesne made a motion to deny the request of VT DOM LLC to abate the interest of \$101.16 as the tax bill was mailed to the address provided at closing. The motion was seconded by N. Tift. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion made by A. Buffum and seconded by S. Thayer, the request to abate the taxes for Burton Burnett on \$50,000 from May 10 through November 10, 2019 was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. on a motion made by R. Barker and seconded by L. Edmunds. The motion passed unanimously.

Julie M. Sharon, Town Clerk