

Minutes of the Waterbury Board of Abatement
Wednesday February 28, 2024
28 North Main Street and via zoom

Attendance: Roger Clapp, Alyssa Johnson, Bruce King, Liz Schlegel, Geri Dillon, Katrina VanTyne, Karen Petrovic, Bob Butler, Mary Woodruff

Public Attendance: Tom Leitz; Town Manager, Nora Miller

ZOOM: Jim Adams, Linda Gravell, Steve Karcher

L. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

Approve Agenda: B. Butler made a motion to approve the agenda as written which was seconded by R. Clapp and passed unanimously.

Public: no comment

Review and Approve Board of Abatement Rules and Procedures: B. King presented the Rules and Procedures he drafted for consideration by the BOA.

Discussion followed regarding the 30-minute hearing, could we word it as a maximum allowable opposed to a minimum requirement.

A Johnson moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure. B. King seconded the motion. Discussion followed **B. King moved to strike the 30-minute hearing length on item 5B and update to 10-minute minimum hearing. A vote on the amendment was held and passed unanimously. A vote was held on the amended Rules of Procedure which passed unanimously.**

Danny Carpenter & Tasha Green – 1930 US Route 2:

L. Schlegel opened the discussion by stating the parcel ID of the property as 010-1930.

L. Schlegel administered the oath “Under the pains and penalties of perjury, do you solemnly swear that the evidence you give in the cause under consideration shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth?” to which N. Miller agreed.

L. Schlegel stated N. Miller volunteers for CReW but does not feel this is a conflict of interest.

N. Miller stated the property owner is claiming an abatement based on Taxes or charges upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.

N. Miller stated they are living in a camper in the yard as they work to rebuild their home. CReW is working with them currently to get their kitchen cabinets installed. CReW and the Good Neighbor Fund have been working with them to get back on their feet. They also have been working with FEMA.

R. Clapp asked if they are asking for a full or ½ year abatement? N. Miller stated they have been out of their home for 8 months.

M. Bard asked how much have they been able to recover from FEMA and other sources? The Carpenters have received \$20,000 from insurance but sustained \$70,000 in damages.

The possibility does exist they could be made whole through Vermont Disaster Recovery Fund but it is unclear if or how long it will take.

L. Gravell asked about the house site value opposed to Assessed Value on the tax bill? K. Petrovic was able to explain the discrepancy of the two values based on 2 acres and 2.5 acres.

G. Dillon asked if they have applied for Realtor Relief Fund? N. Miller stated she does not believe so

because she does not believe they qualified however she will investigate that again for them to ensure it is being considered.

Kim Crowell – 1852 US Route 2: L. Schlegel opened the discussion by stating the parcel ID of the property as 010-1852.

L. Schlegel administered the oath “Under the pains and penalties of perjury, do you solemnly swear that the evidence you give in the cause under consideration shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth?” to which N. Miller agreed.

N. Miller stated the property owner is claiming an abatement based on Taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees as well as Taxes or charges upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.

L. Schlegel stated N. Miller volunteers for CReW but does not feel this is a conflict of interest.

K. Crowell is a neighbor to the last applicant.

K. Crowell has lost time from work.

CReW and the Good Neighbor Fund have been helping with expenses.

K. Crowell has applied to FEMA.

K. Crowell will also be an applicant of the Vermont Disaster Recovery Fund.

CReW is hanging cabinets and getting her back in her home as soon as possible.

L. Schlegel stated K. Crowell may qualify for additional assistance through Habitat for Humanity but she can not apply until her taxes are paid because they will not consider if she is delinquent.

R. Clapp asked if Kim was forced out of her home? N. Miller confirmed she was.

B. King asked if the applicant had the financial ability to pay for the taxes before the flooding? N. Miller does not feel she had the ability to answer this. Follow up question - Did the applicant have the capacity to pay the \$700 before the flood. N. Miller stated she does not believe so.

B. King moved to enter Deliberative session with the Municipal Manager as a guest to discuss the first two applicants until 6:55pm. K. VanTyne seconded the motion, a vote was held and passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Deliberative Session

B. King moved the town abate the taxes, penalty, and interest of the 2023 property taxes owned by K. Crowell. B. Butler seconded the motion; a vote was held unanimously.

B. Butler moved the Town abate the taxes of 2023 for Danny Carpenter and Tasha Green with the refund sent to the property owners. M. Bard seconded the motion. B. King stated he would like to consider the time the property owners were out of the house. B. King moved to amend the motion to state the refund is from July 10, 2023 to December 31, 2023. A vote was held on the amended motion from July 10, 2023 to December 31, 2023. A vote was held and passed unanimously. A vote was held on the motion that was moved and amended and passed unanimously.

R. Clapp moved to exit deliberative session which was seconded by B. Butler and passed unanimously. B. King moved the board recess until 7pm. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

Lucille Kittredge – 81 Stowe Street: L. Schlegel introduced the hearing with no applicant or representative in attendance for the meeting. Parcel ID is 948-0081.V

There are no conflicts of interest from the Board to either the applicant or the guardian.
The application states the request is based on Taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees.

A Johnson and B. King asked questions about the tax sale process. The funds for the sale at tax sale are held in escrow but the town (minus the delinquent tax amount) for one year.

Chad Rich – 23 South Main Street: L. Schlegel introduced the hearing with no applicant or representative in attendance for the meeting. Parcel ID is 916-0023.V

There are no conflicts of interest from the Board.
The application states his request is based on Taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees.

B. Butler made a motion to enter deliberative session with Municipal Manager T. Leitz. B. King seconded, a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Deliberative Session: B. King moved the board take no action on the application of C. Rich. B. Butler seconded. B. King does not feel the application makes a case that the applicant is unable to pay his taxes.
A vote was held and passed unanimously.

There was discussion about the Kittredge application. B. King was considering the relief of penalty and interest and keep the principal balance.

S. Karcher moved to deny the application. R. Clapp seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding the Board discretion. **A vote was held and passed 10-1**

Adjourn: R Clapp moved to adjourn which was seconded by B. Butler and passed unanimously.