

Minutes if the Board of Abatement
Monday March 31, 2025
28 North Main Street and via Zoom

Attendance: Karen Petrovic, Liz Schlegel, Katrina VanTyne, Bob Butler, Mary Woodruff, Kane Sweeney, Tori Taravella, Bob Stanton, Erin Mooney, Alyssa Johnson, Mary Miller, Amanda McKay

Board Members Present via Zoom: Jim Adams

Liz Schlegel called the meeting to order at 6pm

Approve Agenda: B. Butler moved to approve the agenda as written; K. Sweeney seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

Public Attendance: none

Organizational Meeting: A. McKay nominated L. Schlegel as Chair of the Board of Abatement. The nomination was seconded by B. Butler and accepted by L. Schlegel. K. Sweeney nominated B. Butler as Vice Chair of the Board of Abatement. The nomination was seconded by E. Mooney and accepted by B. Butler. A vote was held on both nominations and passed unanimously.

M. Miller made a motion to adopt the BOA Rules of Procedure, the motion was seconded by T. Taravella. M. Woodruff asked about appellants asking questions of the lister as she heard it stated at the last meeting. Discussion followed if the Board wishes to amend the Rules and Procedures. **T. Taravella made a motion to amend the Rules and Procedures to include language 5.7 the appellant will be allowed to ask questions of the listers. B. Stanton seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

The board opened the abatement hearing.

L. Schlegel stated the appellant's name: Michael Abare and address 5 Railroad Street with a parcel ID of 950-0005.V

K. Petrovic gave an overview of the assessments that were included in the packet regarding the pre-fire, post-fire, and new construction assessments from the Town of Waterbury.

B. Stanton asked about a statute of limitations - there is not one.

K. VanTyne asked if the home is now inhabitable - it is not.

B. Stanton asked if the Town is still responsible for the education taxes if the board abates – the Town is still responsible for paying the Education taxes to the state.

A. McKay made a motion to abate the 2024 taxes based on the \$83,500 new construction assessment. Prorated based on February 27, 2024 fire to December 2024. T. Taravella seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding the difference of a natural disaster and a fire which is often preventable. It was also discussed that a total loss is a total loss regardless of the circumstances of the loss.

K. VanTyne stated the time frame of this request is important.

T. Taravella made a proposal to use a figure of \$75,700 based on the new construction assessment land and improvements and not the \$83,500 as stated in the 2025 assessment figure.

A. Johnson stated she would want to consider if this was a much larger parcel and we set a precedent to abate the entire amount when there is considerable value in the land alone.

K. Sweeney made the point to define an act of God versus not an act of God.

T. Taravella made a motion to abate from 2/28/2024 based on the new value of the site improvements in the amount of \$75,700. K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

K. Petrovic made a motion to refund the appellant directly. K. Sweeney seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

T. Taravella made a motion to adjourn the meeting. K. Sweeney seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.