

To be approved at the next meeting

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
Held on February 23, 2026

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order in person by Board Chair Carol Dawes at 6:01 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Barre, VT. In attendance in person were: JP Rosemary Averill, JP Patricia Bisson, JP Michael Boutin, JP Sarah Helman, JP Chyrsta Murray, JP Tess Taylor, JP Sharon Toborg, Clerk Cheryl Metivier, Assessor Carly Martin and (Virtually) Councilor Beth Hilgartner, JP Amanda Gustin, JP Sonya Spaulding, JP Tom Kelly

The Board approved the minutes of the September 24th, 2025 meeting on motion of Board member Beth Hilgartner, seconded by Board member Sarah Helman. **Motion carried.**

Chair Dawes opened the abatement hearings, and presented the following;

Abatement #		Property Owner	Property Address
2026-15	not flood related	John LePage	16 Willey St
2026-16	Flood related	- M&S Properties	372 N. Main St. withdrew application
2026-17	Service related	Sarah Helman	43 Fortney PL
2026-18	Service related	Sharon Olson	41 Fortney PL
2026-19	Service related	Elvir & Zeljka Jandric	37 Fortney PL
2026-20	Service related	Sara & John Ulrich	49 Fortney PL
2026-21	Flood related	Kimberly Campbell Est.	3 Third St.
2026-22	Illness	Topper & Mary McFaun	18 West. St.

2026-15; (Hearing opened at 6:02pm) John LePage was not present to speak. Will discuss during deliberation. (Hearing closed by Chair Carol Dawes at 6:04pm)

2026-17: (Hearing opened at 6:05pm) Sarah Helman spoke on behalf of group also requesting abatement for services on Fortney Place. State they were given insufficient notice the plowing services were not continuing, thus insufficient time to secure a fair bid for plowing. Was not aware the street was considered private property. Noting, the City plows do use the road to reach a city owned cul-de-sac that is plowed regularly. After a brief Q & A the hearing was closed. (Hearing closed by Chair Carol Dawes at 6:22pm)

2026-18; (Hearing opened at 6:23pm) Sharon Olsen shared her concern of what other services by possibly be discontinued such as paving or water & sewer repair. She has lived at her residents for 23+ years and the City has always maintained the road, plowing and paving. A point was made, she remembers being told by the Realtor the road was private. After a brief Q & A the hearing was closed. (Hearing closed by Chair Carol Dawes at 6:25pm)

2026-19; (Hearing opened at 6:25pm) No one was present to represent the applicant. Applicant was requesting an abatement of a portion of taxes due to discontinuation of plowing from the City of Barre of deemed private road. After a brief Q & A the hearing was closed. (Hearing closed by Chair Carol Dawes at 6:29pm)

2026-20; (Hearing opened at 6:30pm) No one was present to represent the applicant. Applicant was requesting an abatement of a portion of taxes due to discontinuation of plowing from the City of Barre of deemed private road. After a brief Q & A the hearing was closed. (Hearing closed by Chair Carol Dawes at 6:31pm)

2026-21; (Hearing opened at 6:31pm) Eric Morse spoke in regard to the loss of use since the July 10, 2023 flood. Also stating the lot is too small to rebuild or remediation for flooding and would like the taxes abated for the 23-24

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tax year. House has been condemned and will not be occupied by the family again. After a brief Q & A the hearing was closed. (Hearing closed by Chair Carol Dawes at 6:41pm)

2026-22; (Hearing opened at 6:41pm) No one was present to represent the applicant. The application request was an abatement of interest and penalties applied to a late tax payment due to an illness. After a brief Q & A the hearing was closed. (Hearing closed by Chair Carol Dawes at 6:42pm)

A motion to enter deliberation session was moved by Board member Tess Taylor, seconded by Board member Patti Bission, unanimously approved.

Board member Sarah Helman recused herself from all decisions regarding Fortney Place, as did Board member Patricia Bisson due to conflict of interest.

Board moved to a deliberation session at 6:43pm. Recording paused.

Recording resumed.

A motion to exit deliberation session was moved by Board member Rosemary Averill, seconded by Board member Sharon Toborg, unanimously approved.

Chair Carol Dawes noted the decision of the Board of Abatement will be mailed to the appellant within 15 days, as per statute.

Chair Carol Dawes adjourned the meeting at 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, Clerk