

To be approved at next BoA meeting

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
Held on June 6, 2023

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order in person and on video platform by Board Chair Tabitha Tant at 6:02 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Barre, VT. In attendance in person or virtually were: Peter Anthony, Ivana Argenti, Rosemary Averill, Tim Boltin, Michael Boutin (arrived 6:07 PM), Michael Deering, Amanda Gustin, Jake Hemmerick, Tom Kelly, Thom Lauzon, Lisa Liotta, Haley Pero, Samn Stockwell (arrived 6:04 PM), Tess Taylor (arrived 6:03 PM), William Toborg, Teddy Waszazak, Interim Assessor Janet Shatney, and City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes.

Members absent: Patti Bisson, Emel Cambel, Karen Lauzon, and Brian Parker.

The Board approved the minutes of the September 28, 2022 meeting on motion of Board Member Anthony, seconded by Board Member T. Lauzon. **Motion carried.**

Chair Tant opened the abatement hearings, and administered the oath to the Board members. She reviewed the process for the hearings.

BOA 2023-01: Joseph Crosier, 16 Brooklyn Street. Parcel #0245-0016.0000.

Chair Tant administered the oath to appellant Joseph Crosier. Mr. Crosier said the assessment on his studio property at 16 Brooklyn Street was erroneously increased from \$33,800 to \$116,900 beginning Tax Year 2018 when the description of the property was changed to a residence. The property in question is a storage shed/studio with no water/sewer service. Mr. Crosier said he was too ill for several years to take notice of the change. He brought it to the attention of Interim Assessor Janet Shatney in spring 2021, and following an inspection of the property, Ms. Shatney reduced the assessment to its previous value of \$33,800. Mr. Crosier is requesting an abatement of taxes equal to the amount associated with the erroneous increase in assessment for the three years the increase was in place.

Interim Assessor Janet Shatney said Mr. Crosier came to her in spring 2021 to grieve the assessment. Ms. Shatney visited the property and confirmed it is not a residence, and has no water/sewer service. She confirmed the assessment is now \$33,800. It was assessed at the higher amount for three tax years.

Board members asked questions of Mr. Crosier and Ms. Shatney. There was discussion on Mr. Crosier's health issues, and when notification of the assessment change was sent to Mr. Crosier in June 2018.

The hearing was closed and carried into deliberative session on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Toborg. **Motion carried.**

BOA 2023-02: Leon Hollinger/Atlantic Championship Wrestling. Auditorium rental 9/10/19.

The Clerk requested the Board abate this unpaid accounts receivable invoice, noting numerous attempts to collect have been unsuccessful.

BOA 2023-03: Kevin Bell. BOR rental 2/29/20.

The Clerk requested the Board abate this unpaid accounts receivable invoice, noting numerous attempts to collect have been unsuccessful.

BOA 2023-04: CW Trucking. Clean-up and repairs from truck accident/light poll replacement 9/24/20.

The Clerk requested the Board abate this unpaid accounts receivable invoice, noting numerous attempts to collect have been unsuccessful.

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BOA 2023-05: City of Barre, 22 Hill Street. Parcel #0790-0022.0000.

The Clerk requested the Board abate accrued delinquent taxes and water/sewer charges on this property that was transferred to the City through the tax sale process in 2022. The property is scheduled to be sold to Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity in the near future.

The board approved full abatements for 2023-02, 03, 04, and 05 on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried.**

The Board went into deliberative session at 6:25 PM on motion of Board Member Waszazak, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried.**

The Board came out of deliberative session at 6:35 PM to discuss Mr. Crosier's abatement request on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes noted the decision of the Board of Abatement will be mailed to Mr. Crosier within 15 days, as per statute.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Waszazak. **Motion carried.**

The open portions of the meeting were recorded on the video platform.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, Clerk/Treasurer