

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING
Held on September 13, 2023

The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) meeting was called to order by Chair Tabitha Tant at 5:00 P.M. in the Barre City Council Chambers, Barre, Vermont, and on video platform. Board Members present in person and on video were Peter Anthony, Ivana Argenti, Rosemary Averill, Patti Bisson, Emel Cambel, Michael Deering, Amanda Gustin, Tom Kelly, Karen Lauzon, Thom Lauzon, Lisa Liotta (arrived 5:06 PM), Haley Pero, Samn Stockwell, Tess Taylor, William Toborg, Teddy Waszazak, and Clerk Carol Dawes.

Members absent: Tim Boltin, Michael Boutin, Jake Hemmerick, and Brian Parker.

The Board approved the minutes from the May 4, 2023 meeting on motion of Board Member Waszazak, seconded by Board Member Lauzon. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed the list of voters who could potentially be challenged. The Clerk said she had already marked those who haven't voted in the last two years, and those who had been mailed ballots or postcards which came back as undeliverable. The total number currently stands as just over 300 to be challenged. Board members added a couple names to the list. The Clerk noted the process is required by statute in odd numbered years.

The Clerk was authorized to send challenge letters to the list of identified voters on motion of Board Member Toborg, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried.**

Those in attendance self-administered the oath for property tax assessment appeal hearings, and reviewed and affirmed the Rules of Procedure & Information Handout. The Board ratified the rules of procedure and information handout on motion of Board Member Anthony, seconded by Board Member Argenti. **Motion carried with Board Members K. Lauzon and T. Lauzon abstaining due to conflict of interest.**

The Clerk said two property tax assessment appeal hearing requests have been received by the filing deadline, and she recommended the hearings be held on Wednesday, September 27th, with the reports of the inspection teams to be heard on October 25th, with decisions being made that evening. The Board approved the recommended dates on motion of Board Member Toborg, seconded by Board Member Anthony. **Motion carried with Board Members K. Lauzon and T. Lauzon abstaining due to conflict of interest.**

The Clerk said the Board of Abatement will need to hold hearings this fall related to property damage caused by the July heavy rains and flooding. To date 37 hearing requests have been received, and that number is expected to increase substantially. The Clerk recommended a group of 3-4 Board of Abatement members work together to create an application to be completed by all abatement requesters so as to standardize the process. The Board authorized the Clerk to create and work with such an ad hoc group to develop the process for addressing the flood-related abatement requests on motion of Board Member Toborg, seconded by Board Member T. Lauzon. **Motion carried.**

Board Members T. Lauzon, Deering, Waszazak, and Tant expressed interest in being part of the ad hoc group. The Clerk encouraged anyone interested in participating to let her know. She will name 3-4 group members based on availability and balance. The plan is to bring a proposal forward for consideration at the September 27th meeting.

The meeting recessed at 5:21 PM until September 27th on motion of Board Member Waszazak, seconded by Board Member Gustin. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, Clerk of the Board