

Minutes of the Meeting of the Royalton Board of Tax Abatement
April 21, 2015
7:00 p.m. Office of the Town Clerk
23 Alexander Place #1, South Royalton, Vermont

Members present: Selectboard; Phil Gates, Peggy Ainsworth, Joan Goldstein and Sandra Conrad. Justices of the Peace; David Ainsworth, Bushrod Powers, Bruce Post, Allison Fulcher, Alison Gravel, John Dumville and Hoyt Bingham. Listers; Jeff Barcelow. Treasurer; LuAnn Bingham. Town Clerk; Karmen Bascom.

Members absent: Selectboard; Larry Trottier. Justices of the Peace; William Ballou and Sue Cain. Listers; Walter Hastings and Bruce Washburn.

Guests present: Mary Jean Jennings

The Royalton Board of Tax Abatement met at the Office of the Town Clerk on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Powers, who noted abatement requests from Brian Miller and Myra Miller and Mary Jean Jennings. He then proceeded to first order of business.

Agenda

I Update regarding 24 VSA §1535(c) for abatement boards

Board reviewed the state law regarding standards for documentation and procedure used in abatement meetings.

II Abatement requests

Mary Jean Jennings appeared to request an abatement for Parcel Q—510. (Q—510 currently owned by Town of Royalton under Report of Tax Sale, Book 109 Page 386.) Jennings claimed a deed in which Morgan quitclaimed property to Jennings existed, which would allow her to claim ownership of said parcel and subsequent rights to abate property as her own. Request was based on financial burden. Jennings said her Social Security payments were supporting three additional family members residing at this home, who were offering little to no financial assistance. When asked for financial records, Mrs. Jennings showed the board a personal budget journal, but offered no standard financial records such as state payments, tax returns or rent receipts. The board thanked Mrs. Jennings for her appearance. A motion was made to go into closed session, seconded and approved.

Upon exiting the closed session, the Board of Tax Abatement unanimously voted to take no action at this time. This decision was made on the grounds that Lori Morgan is still the owner of record (Please note Report of Tax Sale, Book 109, Page 386.) Also, no documentation establishing Mary Jean Jennings authority to request an abatement was presented.

Paperwork from Brian Miller and Myra Miller for parcel S—490 was reviewed for abatement. Mr. Miller's supporting documents with regards to his monthly payments, were noted. A motion was made to go into closed session, seconded and approved.

Upon exiting the closed session, the Board of Tax Abatement unanimously voted to take no action at this time. This decision was based on the grounds that Mr. Miller had insufficient financial information to determine his need. Specifically, the board was offered no previous or current tax returns along with documentation of other household income sources to make an accurate decision.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk