

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Royalton Board of Tax Abatement
October 20th, 2015
7:00 p.m. Office of the Town Clerk
23 Alexander Place #1, South Royalton, Vermont**

Members present: Selectboard; Peggy Ainsworth and Sandra Conrad. Justices of the Peace; David Ainsworth, Joshua Powers, Alison Gravel and Susan Cain. Listers; Jeff Barcelow and Bruce Washburn. Treasurer; LuAnn Bingham. Town Clerk; Karmen Bascom.

Members absent: Selectboard; Larry Trottier, Phil Gates, Joan Goldstein Justices of the Peace; Bruce Post, William Ballou, Allison Fulcher, John Dumville and Hoyt Bingham. Listers; Walter Hastings.

Guests present: Douglas Chase, Margaret Chase and Michael Wood.

The Royalton Board of Tax Abatement met at the Office of the Town Clerk on Tuesday, October 20th, 2015 at 7 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Powers, who noted abatement requests from Douglas and Margaret Chase and Michael Wood.

Agenda

I Abatement requests

Douglas and Margaret Chase appeared to request an abatement of penalties and interest for tax years 2010 through 2014 totaling \$2,238.18. Chase explained that these penalties did accrue while he and his family suffered great personal and economic hardship, and although this was the case, he had since managed to obtain solid employment, set up a responsible payment plan with Theresa Harrington, Delinquent Tax Collector and pay back the town all past taxes, excepting penalties and interest as noted above; all within a two year time frame.

Board members spoke with the Chases, verified information and Joshua Powers thanked them for explaining their situation on behalf of the board. Chair Powers then asked Michael Wood to explain his circumstance.

Michael Wood appeared to request abatement on 2014 and 2015 upcoming taxes in order to assist in acquiring a loan to purchase back his land, now currently owned by the Town of Royalton under Report of Tax Sale, Book 109 Page 389. Wood's request was based on both personal hardship and a steep decline in his business due to a stagnant economy.

Board members spoke with Wood, suggesting he set up a payment plan with Theresa Harrington. David Ainsworth explained that due to the current tax sale status, the board would hold off on abatement until Wood recouped his property. At such time, Wood would be welcome to return for another abatement request.

The board moved and seconded to enter deliberative session. Upon exiting deliberative session, Chair Powers questioned the board.

Those in favor of abatement for Douglas and Margaret Chase for taxes and penalty of \$2,238.18 was unanimous; opposed, none. Decision based on their history of full repayment of base tax amounts for 2010 through 2014.

Those in favor of abatement for Michael Wood for 2014 taxes and penalties and future taxes for 2015, none. Those opposed, unanimous. Decision based on Wood's property being held by the Town of Royalton under Report of Tax Sale, with redemption pending in January of 2016.

II Public Comments: none

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk