

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Royalton Board of Tax Abatement  
Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017  
7:00 p.m. Town Offices: Clerk  
2460 Vermont Route 14, South Royalton, Vermont 05068**

Members present: Justices of the Peace; Chair Joshua "Bushrod" Powers, David Ainsworth, Bruce Post, Allison Fulcher, Alison Gravel, Sue Cain, John Dumville, Sandra Conrad and Hoyt Bingham. Selectboard; Peg Ainsworth, Sandra Conrad, Tim Dreisbach and Gidget Lyman. Listers; Jeff Barcelow and Bruce Washburn. Treasurer; LuAnn Bingham. Clerk; Karmen Bascom.

Members absent: Justice of the Peace; Bill Ballou. Selectboard; Larry Trottier. Listers; Walter Hastings.

Witnesses: Richard Honkala, Ed Digby, Jeanette Digby, James McCleery and Theresa Harrington.

The Royalton Board of Tax Abatement met at the clerk office on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting began with Chair Powers requesting Richard Honkala, Parcel V—160, present his case.

At 7:00 p.m. Mr. Honkala explained that he was requesting an abatement for his 2016 taxes due to prolonged physical injuries rendering him unable to work for an extended period of time. Mr. Honkala was thanked and asked to leave so the board could retreat into deliberative session at 7:15 p.m. The board exited at 7:30 p.m.

Chair Powers motioned and Sandra Conrad seconded to table Mr. Honkala's request until financial information was provided in the form of a 2016 HI 144 and HS 122 Vermont State form and the 2016 IRS 1040 form.

7:30 pm. Ed and Jeanette Digby, Parcel M—220, entered and Chair Powers asked them to explain their circumstances. Mr. and Mrs. Digby explained that a recent fire had destroyed their home and personal belongings. While they are current on taxes, they were requesting an abatement for the upcoming 2017 taxes due to financial hardship from fire and renter damage. Sandra Conrad asked if they had filed their HI 144 and HS 122 forms. As of now, they had not. The Digbys were thanked and left the meeting.

7:55 p.m. James McCleery was asked to present his case. Mr. McCleery asked the board to abate his 2014 taxes, based on ongoing financial hardship and theft of personal property. Theresa Harrington clarified the current 2014 total due was \$1,480.32 and additional delinquent taxes remained for 2015 and 2016 as well. Jeff Barcelow questioned if McCleery's property could be once again entered into land use. Mr. McCleery noted the property had been logged, no longer qualifying. Barcelow suggested enough time had passed to revisit the possibility of re-entering the current use program. Mr. McCleery was thanked and left the meeting. Mr. McCleery returned briefly to ask that his home not be placed up for delinquent tax sale.

8:15 p.m. the board entered deliberative session.

8:30 p.m. the board exited deliberative session.

Sandra Conrad motioned and Luann Bingham seconded not to abate James McCleery's 2014 taxes on the grounds of insufficient documentation at this time. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ed and Jeanette Digby's request was tabled until further documentation including HI 144 and HS 122 for this year are filed.

For Hal Rippon, Parcel S—680, Gidget Lyman motioned and Hoyt Bingham seconded not to abate due to lack of documentation. All in favor, motion carried.

In other business, the board requested the clerk update the Property Tax Abatement Request Form to include: Providing the completed documents: HI 144 and HS 122 state forms along with signed IRS 1040 forms are highly encouraged.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk