

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Royalton Board of Tax Abatement
Tuesday, December 12th, 2017
6:30 p.m. Town Offices: Conference Room
2460 Vermont Route 14, South Royalton, Vermont 05068**

Members present: Justices of the Peace; Chair David Ainsworth, Allison Fulcher, Alison Gravel and Sandra Conrad. Selectboard; Larry Trottier, Peg Ainsworth, Sandra Conrad, Tim Dreisbach and Gidget Lyman. Listers; Walter Hastings and Jeff Barcelow. Treasurer; LuAnn Bingham. Clerk; Karmen Bascom.

Members absent: Justice of the Peace; Joshua "Bushrod" Powers, Bill Ballou, Bruce Post, Sue Cain, John Dumville and Hoyt Bingham. Listers; Bruce Washburn.

Witnesses: Richard Honkala.

The Royalton Board of Tax Abatement met in the town conference room on Tuesday, December 12th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. The meeting began with Chair Ainsworth requesting Richard Honkala, Parcel V—160, present additional document for his previous case.

At 6:35 p.m. Mr. Honkala presented additional hardship information: State of Vermont 2016 and 2017 confirmation numbers for HS-122 & HI 144 forms which had been received, but not yet processed. Also, a note explaining that 1040 forms were not required for those filing under \$4,000.00.

Responding to questions from the board, Mr. Honkala stated that he was now receiving Social Security benefits and believed he was well enough to return to his auto body business on a part-time basis, but would appreciate any help the board would offer.

At 6:45 p.m. the board entered deliberative session and exited at 6:50 p.m.

A. Sandy Conrad made motion to abate all 2016 taxes plus penalties and interest to date on the Honkala property (V—160) due to hardship. Multiple seconds. Chair Ainsworth polled those in favor of abatement of 2016 taxes of \$6445.46, plus penalties and interest to date. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

B. Jeff Barcelow presented a lister card, noting an \$84,900 appraisal of the Digby single family farmhouse (M—220) which burned down on July 17, 2017. Walter Hastings made motion to abate \$1,800 prorated, with penalties and interest to date. Jeff Barcelow made amendment to abate \$1,800 plus full 2017 penalties and interest to date. Chair Ainsworth polled the board. All were in favor with Tim Dreisbach opposed. Walter Hastings made motion to return to original motion with amendment. Alison Gravel seconded. Chair Ainsworth polled for all in favor of abating \$1,800.00 plus full 2017 penalties and interest to date (December 12). All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

C. The Selectboard brought before the board an abatement request for 2016 and 2017 totaling \$862.63(which already included interest and penalties) for the Town of Royalton regarding the former Smart property (O—220) which was purchased at tax sale. Chair Ainsworth polled abatement for 2016 and 2017 taxes totaling \$862.63(interest and penalties already included). **Motion carried.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk