

Minutes of the Meeting of the Royalton Board of Abatement
Thursday, January 23rd, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Town Offices: Meeting Room
2460 Vermont Route 14, South Royalton, Vermont 05068

Members present: Justices of the Peace: Chair Joshua Powers, Bill Ballou, John Dumville, Allison Fulcher, Rebecca Foulk, Charlie Bascom and Matt Angell. Selectboard: Sandra Conrad, Tim Murphy and Jerry Barcelow. Listers: Jeff Barcelow and Samantha Bruce. Clerk: Karmen Bascom.

Members absent: Justices of the Peace: Peg Ainsworth, Hoyt Bingham and Bruce Post. Selectboard: Tim Dreisbach and Chris Noble. Lister: Walter Hastings. Treasurer: LuAnn Bingham.

Witnesses: none.

The Royalton Board of Tax Abatement met at the Royalton Town Office Meeting Room on Thursday, January 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair Joshua Powers at 7:00 p.m.

I Abatement Requests

With no witnesses present, the board went into deliberations.

A: Upon review of an addendum to original statement, tax bill and IRS documentation, appellants Robert and Sheila Quillia, Parcel A—160 owned by the Quillias, a request was made to abate \$2,773.13 for the tax year 2019. Mr. Quillia's statement noted he would not be granted full-time employment due to his disability. Charlie Bascom motioned to abate the town portion, plus penalties and interest to date. John Dumville seconded. The board noted no budgeting and expense accounts available for review; the tax bill in question was for the current year; no escrow; no immediate danger of tax sale and the fact that the Quillia's had already been granted a substantial abatement in 2014.

Chair Powers asked for a vote. Motion to abate \$2,773.13 for the tax year 2019 was defeated by hand count: 5 in favor, 7 opposed. Karmen Bascom continued recusal for ex-parte communications from previous meeting.

B: Upon review of additional documentation submitted, appellants Mary Brown, Parcel Q—690 owned by Clyde and Mary Brown, a request was made to abate \$2,168.28 for the tax year 2019. Charlie Bascom motioned to abate both the school and town portions, including all penalties and interest to date. Bill Ballou seconded. Deliberations found that Mr. Brown's condition has worsened and the family is diligently working to find assistance. Upon review of prepared financial statements, yearly budget and expense accounts and tax documentation it was apparent their current expenses and need for ongoing and extensive in-house care greatly overshadow their normal resources. Chair Powers called for a hand vote. **Motion to abate the total amount of \$2,401.23, consisting of \$2,163.28 for both the school and town portions, \$64.89 in interest and \$173.06 in penalties to date carried: 10 in favor to 3 opposed.**

C: Upon written request and documentation of appellants Donalyn, Jeffrey and Steve Churchill, Parcel N—120, owned by the Churchills, a request was made to abate the 2019 taxes in the sum of \$969.25 (includes penalties and interest to date). Mrs. Churchill has had to switch from wood heat to propane due to health issues and had been hospitalized twice, noting medicine was expensive. Charlie Bascom motioned to abate the town portion of taxes, plus penalties and interest. John Dumville seconded. The board stated they felt there were insufficient yearly budget and expense reports. Also, the tax bill in question was for the current 2019 year with no immediate danger of tax sale. Chair Powers polled the board: Motion to abate was defeated: **unanimously.**

II Public Comments None.

III Other Business

Bill Ballou requested social security numbers be redacted on future documents. Allison Fulcher reminded board all documents were only for board viewing and shredded after. Clerk will redact future social security numbers regardless.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk