

Minutes of the Meeting of the Royalton Board of Abatement
Thursday, January 9th 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, Bruce Post, Rebecca Foulk, Peg Ainsworth, Charlie Bascom and Matt Angell
Selectboard: Tim Dreisbach and Chris Noble. Listers: Jeff Barcelow and Samantha Bruce. Clerk: Karmen Bascom.

Members absent: Justices of the Peace: Hoyt Bingham. Selectboard: Sandra Conrad, Tim Murphy and Jerry Barcelow. Lister: Walter Hastings (early departure). Treasurer: LuAnn Bingham.

Witnesses: Robert and Sheila Quillia, Mary Brown and Justin Poulin.
Public: Melissa Kumar.

The Royalton Board of Tax Abatement met at the Royalton Town Office Meeting Room on Thursday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chair Joshua Powers at 7:00 p.m.

I Abatement Requests

A: Upon sworn testimony and a brief written statement of 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 testified that he had fractured his ankle on October 8th and Workmen’s Compensation had been denied. He was uncertain when he would be able to return to his previous work schedule of 55 hours per week, but that he had returned part time. Also noted: Mrs. Quillia on disability. Clarifying questions were posed by the board: Were there supporting documents? Chair Powers thanked them for coming in and proceeded with next appellant.

B: Upon sworn testimony and a brief written note of appellant 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. Mrs. Brown explained that since October 26th, her husband had sustained neck injuries, two strokes and was recently placed in the hospital. He has needed her full time care. Conversation ensued. Board asked about supporting documents. Chair Powers thanked her and called the next case.

C: Upon sworn testimony and written request of appellant Justin Poulin, Parcel A—320 owned by Clifford Eaton, a request was made to abate the building’s portion of taxes (prorated) from October 31, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Mr. Poulin confirmed that an arsonist had burned the former restaurant to the ground. All members of the board had viewed the scene. Mr. Poulin was thanked and excused.

II Public Comments None

The board went into deliberations. Allison Fulcher motioned to consider Eaton property first. Charlie Bascom seconded. Chair Power called for voice vote: **Motion carried.** It was agreed that 53% of total taxes due (building's portion of taxes (prorated) from October 31st, 2019 through June 30th, 2020.) would be abated in the form of a refund, pursuant T.24 § 1535 (d) (4). Chair Powers called for vote: **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chair Powers inquired about Brown request: Bill Ballou voted to abate, Jeff Barcelow seconded. Karmen Bascom recused (ex parte communication). Discussion to table request and hold another meeting once additional evidence was presented. Clerk directed to send letter to Browns asking them to provide most recent signed IRS 1040, HI 144 and HS 122 forms (or current tax bill reflecting such) and yearly budget or account of expenses. **Motion to table carried by voice vote, one opposed.**

Chair Powers asked for motions to abate in Quillia case. Chris Noble motioned to table request until further evidence provided. Tim Dreisbach seconded. Clerk will also send letter to Quillias, asking them to provide most recent signed IRS 1040, HI 144 and HS 122 forms (or current tax bill reflecting such) and yearly budget or account of expenses.

III Other Business

Additional request received after agenda posted, to be followed up on at next warned hearing.

Clerk directed to follow up on procedural question with VLCT.

Date set to warn next meeting and continuances: January 23rd, 2020 at 7 p.m. Royalton Town Offices

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk