

Meeting Minutes: Royalton Board of Abatement
July 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Royalton Town Offices: Meeting Room and Zoom Conference
2460 Vermont Route 14, South Royalton, Vermont 05068

Members Present: Justices of the Peace: Acting Chair Charlie Bascom, Bill Ballou, Hoyt Bingham, John Dumville, Peg Ainsworth, Rebecca Foulk and Matt Angell. Selectboard: Jerry Barcelow, David Barker and John Dumville. Listers: Samantha Bruce. Clerk: Karmen Bascom.

Members Absent: Justices of the Peace: Chair Joshua Bushrod Powers, Allison Fulcher and Bruce Post. Selectboard: Chris Noble and Tim Murphy. Listers: Jeff Barcelow and Walter Hastings. Treasurer: Rita Hull.

Appellant: Donalyn Churchill
Public: none

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Acting Chair Charlie Bascom. He requested a motion from the floor to entertain abatement requests:

I Abatement Requests:

A: V—675 F & D Fletcher: Abatement request for tax years 2017 (\$88.75), 2018 (\$92.15) and 2019 (\$95.88) totaling \$276.78. David Barker motioned to abate and Jerry Barcelow seconded. Board reviewed all documents submitted. It was noted that the family was significantly impacted by custodial responsibilities and Mr. Fletcher's loss of employment due to severe viral illness and ultimate death.

B: N— 120 D., J. & S. Churchill: Abatement request for tax year 2019 (\$881.14) plus penalties and interest. John Dumville motioned to abate and Jerry Barcelow seconded. Mrs. Churchill submitted an account of ongoing expenses and payment plans. She explained that due to illness, she had incurred additional medical, prescription and heating fuel bills, due to a conversion from wood to propane heat. Hoyt Bingham asked if Mrs. Churchill had any other means of assistance with her taxes. Mrs. Churchill stated in one case, additional property owners had assisted with payments. Mrs. Churchill was thanked for her time and left the phone conference. Suggestion was made to send out tax bill and abatement letter to other property owners first, then follow up with Theresa Harrington to set up payment plan.

C: J—579 D. Delcore: John Dumville motioned to abate and Bill Ballou seconded. Collector of Delinquent Taxes, Theresa Harrington sent in a statement which deemed 2018 (\$6.74 & penalties) and 2019 (\$7.01 & penalties) to date, as uncollectible. Discussion ensued noting majority of property in Tunbridge and Jerry Barcelow requested ownership inquiry to determine additional owners, if any. Question called. Samantha Bruce will follow up.

Board Decisions:

Fletcher abatement request:

Chair called for voice vote. All in favor with one opposed. **Motion carried.** Reason(s) being: met both 24 VSA §1535(1) (3) criteria. The Fletcher abatement request for tax years 2017 (\$88.75), 2018 (\$92.15) and

2019 (\$95.88) totaling \$276.78 as of February 11, 2020 and all subsequent penalties through July 15, 2020 shall be abated.

Churchill abatement request:

Chair called for voice vote: None in favor, all opposed. Motion to abate defeated. Reason being: while individually, Mrs. Churchill has been unable to meet entire tax burden, additional property owners will be notified of taxes due.

Delcore Abatement request:

Chair called for voice vote: None in favor, all opposed. Motion to abate defeated. Reason(s) being: taxpayer unwillingness to pay to does not meet 24 VSA § 1535(3) inability to pay. Ownership in question.

II Public Comments: none.

III Other Business: Barcelow questioned difficulty reaching majority of board for meetings. Summer vacations, time schedule? Reorganization schedules?

Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karmen M. Bascom, Royalton Town Clerk