



TOWN OF ESSEX VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING as BOARD of ABATEMENT DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OCTOBER 29, 2025

Members Present: Dawn Hill-Fleury, Chair; Betsy Dunn, Vice-Chair; Alyssa Black; Jennifer Booker, Deputy Town Clerk; Leonora Dodge; Alexis Dubief; Georgia Lavigne; Karen Lemnah, Assessor; Ken Signorello; Erik Post; Margaret Smith; Liz Subin; Andy Watts; Irene Wrenner
Others Present: Kate LaRose, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Dawn Hill-Fleury, Chair.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

BETSY DUNN made a motion, seconded by GEORGIA LAVIGNE, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed 13-0.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes: October 7, 2025

BETSY DUNN made a motion, seconded by Margaret Smith, to accept the meeting minutes, as presented. Motion passed 13-0.

6. REQUESTS FOR ABATEMENT

a. Bibens Eric II, dba Ace Hardware - Request to abate taxes in which there is clear or obvious error. 24. V.S.A. § 153(a)(2)

Dawn Hill-Fleury said that the applicant is requesting that the late fee be abated, as he was eleven days late in paying. There does not appear to be an error on the part of the listers, the error was made by the taxpayer.

BETSY DUNN made a motion, seconded by KEN SIGNORELLO, to deny the request for abatement. Motion passed 13-0.

b. Anne C. Bassett- Request to abate taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and /or collection fees. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(5).

Ms. Bassett said that the home belonged to her brother, and he passed away in December of 2024. She said that she does not have access to his estate funds yet. No payments have been made after

her brother's death. Lack of liquidity in an estate does not meet the criteria for being unable to pay, according to the Town Attorney. Ms. Black suggested that the taxes be paid after the estate goes through probate and the is settled. Mr. Signorello suggested that the applicant lend the estate the funds to pay the taxes if she wishes to avoid penalties. Ms. Black advised against the comingling of personal funds into an estate, as it is possible that there may not be sufficient funds to pay all the debts.

IRENE WRENNER made a motion, seconded by Erik Post, to deny the abatement request. Motion passed 13-0.

c. Tiana & Alex Smith – Request to abate taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and collection fees. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(3).

D. Hill-Fleury said that the applicant said that they rely on a payment from summer camp work to pay their taxes, which was delayed. They also not receive the homestead exemption this year. They would like to have the late payment abated for this purpose.

IRENE WRENNER made a motion, seconded by Andy Watts, to deny the request for abatement. Motion passed 13-0.

7. DELIBERATION

Not held.

8. ADJOURNMENT

KEN SIGNORELLO made a motion, seconded by Andy Watts, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 13-0 at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Darby Mayville,
Recording Secretary