

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Tax Abatement Minutes
February 13, 2023

MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION

Members present; BOA President Doenges, Aldermen Cupoli, Savage, Talbott, Tadio, Gillam, Davis and Treasurer Markowski. Also present, City Clerk Heck. Aldermen Depoy and Franco and Assessor Langlois and Mayor Allaire were absent.

Chair Doenges called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Chair Doenges opened the meeting noting four (4) requests and started with 63 Pine St.

Daniel Gagne; 63 Pine Street

Chair Doenges noted the request for 63 Pine Street and asked if anyone was present, seeing none Clerk Heck noted the request and briefed the Board on the application may have been delayed because of mail delivery. Chair Doenges noted that this request may need to be held at a later hearing, but wanted to leave it until the end in case the applicant was to arrive.

Barbara Giancola; 9 Pine Street

Chair Doenges noted that Barbara Giancola was present and asked her to come forward and present her request. Chair Doenges asked if any member of the Tax Abatement Board would be testifying, seeing none, Chair Doenges noted the oath to be administered and had Clerk Heck swear in Mrs. Giancola. Chair Doenges then sought if any member of the Board needed to disclose any conflict of interest or ex parte communications that had taken place, seeing none Chair Doenges asked Mrs. Giancola if she had received the Board rules and procedure and had any questions. Mrs. Giancola noted she had and had no questions. Mrs. Giancola stated that there was a house on a very small piece of property and that its condition was too dire to rehab, so the home was torn down. Chair Doenges noted that the criteria checked off was, Taxes or Charges upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year 24 V.S.A. § 1535 (a) (5). Mrs. Giancola acknowledged that being correct. Chair Doenges asked Mrs. Giancola if she had any other evidence or testimony. Mrs. Giancola noted she did not, but would be happy to answer any questions. There was brief Q & A with the Board. With no further evidence or testimony, Chair Doenges closed the hearing and noted that the final decision would be drafted and presented to her within thirty (30) days.

Marcia McCormack; 21 Shedd Place.

Chair Doenges introduced the next request for 21 Shedd Place. Chair Doenges asked if anyone other than the abated would be presenting evidence. Seeing none, Chair Doenges asked if anyone present would be testifying, Marcia McCormack and her plumber were present, Clerk Heck was asked to swear them in. Clerk Heck presented the oath to both parties. Chair Doenges noted Marcia McCormack owner of 21 Shedd Place and asked her to present her evidence and the criteria for her request. Ms. McCormack note she was unable to pay.

Ms. McCormack noted that she saw water coming from her mobile home on Christmas Day and called City Hall. Workers responded to the call and fixed/replaced the meter. Ms. McCormack noted she was never told about emergency charges related to fixing the meter and the workers were barely there 15 minutes. Ms. McCormack's plumber spoke on the issue. Both parties testified that they were never told about the afterhours fee. There was debate on previous repairs to the meter. Clerk Heck noted that he had placed a response from Business Manager Gorruso in regards to this incident. Chair Doenges noted if there was no further debate or evidence he was going to close the hearing. Seeing none he continued with the next request for 2 Upland Drive.

Jeff Forte; 2 Upland Drive.

Treasurer Markowski was present to brief the Board on what she classified as a Listor error, noting the parcel in question has been billed in error and should have never been generated. Chair Doenges asked if any member of the Tax Abatement Board would be testifying, seeing none, Chair Doenges then sought if any member of the Board needed to disclose any conflict of interest or ex parte communications that had taken place, seeing none Chair Doenges asked to close the hearing and to move into deliberative session.

At 5:53 PM President Doenges noted a motion was in order to move into deliberative session. That request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Savage). **Motion passed.**

At 5:54 PM the Board moved into deliberative session.

At 6:22 PM the Board of Tax Abatement came out of deliberative session.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Clerk, Board of Tax Abatement