

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Tax Abatement Minutes
May 9, 2022

MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION

Members present; Aldermen Savage, Franco, DePoy, Gillam and Davis. Treasurer Markowski and Assessor Langlois. Also present, City Clerk Heck. Aldermen Neary, Talbott, Doenges and Whitcomb were absent. Mayor Allaire was absent.

Clerk Heck called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Clerk Heck noted the agenda and stated that there was no Chair. If the Board desired he could chair the meeting to allow members to debate issues from the floor. There was no objection from the Board. Clerk Heck asked all applicants if they had any questions or concerns to the process. Seeing none, Clerk Heck called on David Sears to start the hearings.

David Sears, 150 Jackson Avenue Parcel ID # 12605

Clerk Heck followed the new rules of procedure and stated the applicant and property location. Clerk Heck noted the reason for the abatement request was fire and that Mr. Sears application was complete. Clerk Heck swore in Mr. Sears. Clerk Heck then asked members of the Board if they were going to testify or present evidence. Treasurer Markowski noted that she had financial numbers if the Board sought to abate. Clerk Heck noted there were no conflicts of interests nor ex-parte communication amongst members of the Board. Mr. Sears was asked to present his case. Mr. Sears gave a very brief history of the event and noted that he has an offer to purchase the property as is and expects it to be sold by the end of May. There were a couple questions and then a motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) closing the hearing. **Motion passed.**

Clerk Heck noted that the hearing was closed and that the Board would hear the rest of the applicants and then move into deliberative session. A written decision with their findings would be sent within thirty (30) days. Mr. Sears had no questions and thanked the Board.

Clerk Heck moved on to 1 Piedmont Drive.

Allen & Sandra Gartner, 1 Piedmont Drive Parcel ID# 12075

Sandra Gartner was present to request a reduction in her water bill. Clerk Heck noted the request and the complete application. Clerk Heck swore in Mrs. Gartner. Clerk Heck followed the same procedures as the previous hearing and asked the Board if anyone was going to present any evidence. Seeing none, he asked if there were any conflicts or ex-parte communications of the Board. There were none. Mrs. Gartner then proceeded to explain the issue within her home and a leak that was discovered and repaired within 48 hours. The Board had several questions and then a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to close the hearing. **Motion passed.**

Clerk Heck explained to Mrs. Gartner that the hearing was closed and that the Board would finish their hearings and move into deliberative session. There, they would decide to abate or to deny the request. Clerk Heck briefly explained that process and answered all of Mrs. Gartner's questions.

The Board then moved on to their final request for Stanley and Judy Bourn, 25 Terrill Street.

Stanley & Judy Bourn, 25 Terrill Street, Parcel ID# 10537

Clerk Heck noted the next request and told the Board that the Bourn's were being represented by Chris Blanchard a local attorney. Attorney Blanchard did not need to be sworn in and Clerk Heck asked the same questions of the Board. Was anyone giving evidence (no) or was there any contact or ex-parte communication. Alderwoman Savage noted that her husband was related to Judy Bourn. Clerk Heck explained options for Alderwoman Savage about participating. Clerk Heck then asked Attorney Blanchard to proceed. Attorney Blanchard asked if everyone had a copy of his evidence packet. Clerk Heck noted that all members were in receipt of that information. Attorney Blanchard then reviewed those documents. The Board had several questions related to specific water notifications, gallonage, and where did the water go. After all questions had been answered, a motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to close the hearing. Clerk Heck explained to Attorney Blanchard the process of closing the hearing entering deliberative session and expecting those findings within the next thirty (30) days. Attorney Blanchard thanked the Board and had no questions.

Clerk Heck noted a motion was in order to move into deliberative session. That request was so moved and seconded (Davis, DePoy) **Motion passed.**

At 6:08 PM the Board moved into deliberative session.

At 6:34 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Depoy) to exit deliberative session. **Motion passed.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Clerk, Board of Tax Abatement