

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Tax Abatement Minutes
February 10, 2020

MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION

Members present; Treasurer Markowski, BOA President Davis, Aldermen Reveal, Humphrey, Ettori, Ryan, Gillam, Clifford and DePoy. Also present, City Clerk Heck, David Pomykala, Kim & Bill Noel & Athena Euber. Mayor Allaire, Assessor Keefe and Alderman Tommola & Mattis were absent. Alderwoman Ryan arrived at 5:37PM

Acting Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Chair Davis noted that the Board had three (3) abatement requests that evening and started with the request from David Pomykala.

David Pomykala, 64 Cleveland Avenue formerly 148 Library Avenue Parcel ID #14446

Chair Davis introduced the request and asked the Clerk to swear in Mr. Pomykala. Chair Davis asked Mr. Pomykala if he had a copy of the rules and procedure, answering yes, Chair Davis then sought Mr. Pomykala's reason for abatement. Chair Davis stated, Mr. Pomykala had checked criteria box three (3), taxes of a person who are unable to pay and five (5) property lost or destroyed during the tax year as his criteria for requesting a tax abatement. Mr. Pomykala stated that was correct.

Mr. Pomykala spoke of his property that burned back in 2014. Mr. Pomykala noted his struggle to keep up with the property and associated taxes. A plan was presented where Neighbor Works took the building down and turned the remaining property into just lawn. Mr. Pomykala noted that he was requesting help with past due tax from 2015, 2016, 2017. The Board spent a bit of time deciphering the requested time line. Mr. Pomykala noted that he laxed on getting his request in. There was debate on when the 148 Library Ave home was taken down, which triggered a new assessment, thus creating a new tax bill amount. With no further questions, Chair Davis explained the process for finalizing this request, closing the hearing, moving into deliberative session, making a decision on the request and the Clerk/Attorney preparing the report to be sent out with the decision within 30 days.

Athena Euber 94 Forest Street ID #14322

Chair Davis noted the next request was from Athena Euber. Chair Davis also noted that Ms. Euber was being represented by her guardians Kim and William (Bill) Noel. Chair Davis asked Clerk Heck to swear in Mrs. Noel. Chair Davis asked if there was any conflict. Seeing none, Chair Davis asked Mrs. Noel if she had received a copy of the rules and procedure for Tax Abetments. Mrs. Noel noted that they had and then proceeded to detail how the home had come to be in arrears. Mrs. Noel noted that Athena was a minor, the home was given by her grandfather to her mother. Her mother passed, leaving the home to Athena. Athena's father was not responsible to Athena or the home, thus leaving the Noels to take in Athena and try to save her home left to her by her mom. Bill Noel wanted to speak on the issue and was asked to be sworn in. Clerk Heck swore in Mr. Noel and he proceeded to explain how he and his wife have invested money to upgrade the home and get it rented out. Mr. Noel noted that when he has collected his investment around May of 2020, that he and his wife were planning to make substantial payments to the City every month. There was a fair amount of Q & A from the Board to the Noel's. Upon finishing their testimony, Chair Davis noted that this was an extreme case and noted only one other time of a similar request. Chair Davis asked to close the hearing and moved on to the final request.

City of Rutland Various Uncollectable Personal Property

Chair Davis noted the request from the Treasurer's Office as uncollectable and asked Treasurer Markowski to explain the request. Treasurer Markowski noted that these were old and most of the bills come back undeliverable. Treasurer Markowski noted the amount of time and cost associated to the City to keep the accounts open.

Chair Davis noted that this concluded the requests for abatements and sought a motion to enter into deliberative session. That request was so moved and seconded (Clifford, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

At 6:10 PM the Board moved into deliberative session.

At 6:40 PM the Board of Tax Abatement came out of deliberative session.

A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, DePoy) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Clerk, Board of Tax Abatement