

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Tax Abatement Minutes
February 11, 2019

MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION

Members present; Assessor Keefe, Treasurer Markowski, BOA President Davis, Aldermen Whitcomb, Humphrey, Ettori, Ryan, Mattis, Gillam and *DePoy. Also present, City Clerk Heck, Richard Whitcomb, Suzie Kent and John Turco. Mayor Allaire and Alderman Tommola & Clifford were absent. Alderman DePoy arrived at 5:37PM

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

Chair Davis noted that the Board had two (2) abatement requests that evening and started with the request of Richard Whitcomb of 277 Dorr Drive.

Richard Whitcomb; 277 Dorr Drive

Chair Davis introduced the request and asked the Clerk to swear in Mr. Whitcomb. Chair Davis asked the Board if there were any conflicts amongst member and Mr. Whitcomb. Seeing none Chair Davis asked Mr. Whitcomb if he had a copy of the rules and procedure, answering yes, Chair Davis then sought Mr. Whitcomb's reason for abatement. Unsure of her question, Chair Davis stated taxes of a person who are unable to pay was checked on his application. Mr. Whitcomb stated that is his reason and noted he had trouble with reading and writing.

Mr. Whitcomb noted that he was separated and he had been paying his wife for the taxes. She took the money and never paid them. The Board spent several minutes learning about Mr. Whitcomb and his learning disability. Assessor Keefe was asked whose name was listed as the owner. Assessor Keefe acknowledged that it was Mr. Whitcomb only, as the property was quitclaimed to him on October 15, 2017. With no further questions, Chair Davis told Mr. Whitcomb that the Board would move into deliberative session after hearing all requests and asked the Board for a motion to close the hearing so it could hear its next request. At 5:46 PM Alderman DePoy and Alderwoman Mattis so moved and seconded the request to close the hearing. **Motion passed.**

John Turco, 43 Dorr Drive

Chair Davis then introduced the request of John Turco. Chair Davis noted that Suzie Kent was present and an authorized agent for Mr. Turco. Chair Davis followed the same procedure as the last hearing, the swearing in Ms. Kent, asking about conflicts within the Board, there were none and if she had a copy of the procedures, to which Ms. Kent responded yes. Chair Davis asked Ms. Kent for their criteria for abatement and noted that property lost or destroyed within the tax year was checked. Ms. Kent stated that was correct and noted that Mr. Turco and she were working on the home and the process has been slow. Ms. Kent noted the taxes were paid in full and stated that she felt the home would be occupied by the end of 2019. Members of the Board asked a few questions about the construction project at the home. With no further questions, a motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Mattis) to close the hearing.

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

At 5:53 PM the Board moved into deliberative session.

At 6:15 PM the Board of Tax Abatement came out of deliberative session.

Chair Davis noted that the decisions would be drafted by the Clerk/Attorney and mailed within 30 days.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Henry A. Heck
Clerk, Board of Tax Abatement