

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Tax Abatement Minutes
February 12, 2018

MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION

Members present; Treasurer Markowski, Assessor Keefe, Aldermen Notte, Humphrey, Ryan, Tommola, Mattis, Cook and Donahue. Also present, City Clerk Heck, Valerie Sherman, Michel Messier, Dominick Stone and William Dydo Jr. Mayor Allaire, Alderman Davis, Etori and DePoy were absent.

Clerk Heck opened the meeting at 5:30 PM as the Mayor and Board President were both at another meeting. Clerk Heck explained the situation to all present and asked if they would like to elect another member to Chair the abatement. A motion was made and seconded (Tommola, Donahue) to elect Alderman Notte as chair for the proceedings. **Motion passed.** Alderman Notte took the seat as chair and reviewed the rules of procedure, noting that the Board of Tax Abatement does not have the authority to rule on Water and Sewer (Utility) requests.

Gordon Godfrey & Valerie Sherman, 184 Granger Street

Chair Notte introduced the first request of the evening, Gordon Godfrey and Valerie Sherman. Ms. Sherman was present and was sworn in by Clerk Heck. Chair Notte asked if there were any conflict between the applicant and any Board members. Seeing none, Chair Notte explained how Ms. Sherman could introduce evidence and give testimony and at the end of her testimony the Board could ask questions and then the hearing would be closed. After all of the requesters had been heard the Board would enter deliberative session to discuss the facts and evidence and rule on their requests. Chair Notte also noted that Clerk Heck had 30 days to forward that report on to all requesters of tax abatements.

Ms. Sherman gave a brief history for the request and determined that the request was made under the criteria of lost and destroyed personal property during the year. Assessor Keefe gave a detailed history of the events and explained how he was going to handle the request as of April 1, 2018, during the appeals process. Assessor Keefe noted what Ms. Sherman and Mr. Godfrey would need to do to help them consolidate their properties. With no further questions, a motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Ryan) to close the hearing and move on to the next requester Michel Messier.

Chair Notte noted that Mr. Messier's request was for Water & Sewer and was not eligible to be heard. There was some debate from Mr. Messier and Board members on the request and the current tax sale process on the property at 104 Forest St. No member of the Board disagreed with the Chairs' ruling that a Tax Abatement Request for 104 Forest was invalid and the Board moved on to their next request.

Dominick Stone, 270 Dorr Drive

Mr. Stone was present and was sworn in by Clerk Heck. Chair Notte asked about any conflict with the abattoir and any member of the Board. Seeing none Mr. Stone briefed the Board on the history of events leading up to the tax sale of his house. Mr. Stone noted health conditions and financial difficulties. There was brief debate from the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Ryan, Mattis) to close the hearing. **Motion passed.** Chair Notte reiterated the process on moving into deliberative session and the Clerk having 30 days to get the reports back to abattoir.

Shawn A. Gottlin, 111 Maple Street

Chair Notte noted the request. He also noted that there was no one present to present evidence or answer questions. Chair Notte stated that the Board could rule on the property tax based on the evidence provided,

but would not be able to rule on the water & sewer request. Assessor Keefe stated that he thought that this account was paid in full and consulted with the Treasurer. Treasurer Markowski did verify that the account was up to date. Chair Notte noted the request was moot and moved on to the next request.

William Dydo Jr. Five Individual Properties

33 Summer Street

Mr. Dydo was present and sworn in by Clerk Heck. Mr. Dydo was requesting abatements on five (5) properties and Chair Notte asked if there were any conflicts between the Board and Mr. Dydo. Seeing none, Mr. Dydo was asked to start with 33 Summer Street. Mr. Dydo then stated that even though they were being seen as five (5) different requests his evidence and discussion were based on the total purchase of the five. Mr. Dydo gave a detailed history on how he purchased the five (5) and the history of tenants and rehabbing of the properties. There was a great deal of debate and discussion from the Board and Mr. Dydo. A motion was made and seconded (Ryan, Mattis) to close the hearing. **Motion passed.**

100 South Street

Chair Notte asked if there was any conflict on this property and Mr. Dydo. Seeing none Mr. Dydo described the property. Chair Notte asked how the properties were acquired. Mr. Dydo noted an owner from New York had sold to a man in Chicago who could not properly take care of the property and he and Mr. Dydo worked out a deal. There was no further discussion and a motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Ryan) to close the hearing. **Motion passed.**

19 East Washington Street

Chair Notte asked about conflicts on this property. Seeing none, Mr. Dydo noted it was a five (5) apartment building. There were five (5) evictions and no rentals since. There was no further discussion and a motion was made and seconded (Ryan, Mattis) to close the hearing. **Motion passed.**

158 South Street

Chair Notte asked about any conflict with this property, there was none. Mr. Dydo noted a particularly difficult individual to evict. There was brief discussion on the makeup of the property, (Duplex) really being rented out by the room. A motion was made and seconded (Ryan, Mattis) to close the hearing. **Motion passed.**

119 Park Avenue

Chair Notte asked if there was a conflict with this property and any member of the board. Seeing none, Chair Notte noted that this was the final property requested by Mr. Dydo and asked him if he had anything to add on this property. Mr. Dydo noted that this property is vacant, there is no water into the property and it needs a lot of work. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Keefe) to close the hearing. **Motion passed.**

Chair Notte then noted a motion was in order to move into deliberative session to act on all requests heard that evening. A motion was made and seconded (Humphrey, Ryan) to move into deliberative session. **Motion passed.**

At 6:38 PM the Board of Tax Abatement moved into deliberative session.

At 7:15 PM the Board of Tax Abatement came out of deliberative session.

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

A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Ryan) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

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