

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Tax Abatement
August 11, 2025

Minutes of Open Session

Members present: Aldermen Savage, Cupoli, Clifford, Talbott, Tadio, Donahue, Gillam, Davis and President Allaire. Treasurer Markowski, Linda Heald, and Clerk Kapusta. Mayor Doenges was absent.

Chair Allaire called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Chair Allaire then asked those who will give testimony to be sworn in by the Clerk. Donna Rounds LaRose was sworn in.

Chair Allaire opened the meeting and moved to start with Donna Rounds LaRose's abatement request.

Donna Rounds LaRose – 9 Elm Street

Chair Allaire introduced the request for Donna Rounds LaRose. Chair Allaire asked if any member of the Board of Tax Abatement would be testifying if there were any conflicts of interest or ex-parte communications, there were none. Chair Allaire read the statutory criteria checked by Ms. LaRose for her request for abatement, Taxes or Charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, water charges, sewer charges, interest, and/or collection fees, 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(3).

Ms. LaRose testified that in 2023 when she filed her taxes she assumed that the homestead was also filed. She uses that money from the homestead to pay for her water and sewer. Ms. LaRose stated that she became behind in her bills and has been trying to make small payments. The current amount due for water and sewer is \$1,018.21. The State of Vermont told Ms. LaRose that there was nothing that the state could do for her because she failed to file her homestead.

There were no questions from the Board.

Chair Allaire explained to Ms. LaRose that the Board would close the hearing and that they would move into deliberative session and the Board would make a decision on her request. That decision would be mailed within thirty (30) days.

At 5:38 PM Chair Allaire closed the open hearing for 9 Elm Street.

Next was Treasurer Markowski with various accounts for tax abatements. The first set of accounts for abatement are 15-years old or older:

- Grand Performance: \$360.84
- Interconnect Telecommunication: \$1,263.84
- Canine to Five: \$73.53
- Laughing Moon Gallery: \$36.08

For a total of \$1,734.29

The next was for property taxes for Margot Gartner who is deceased. This was a lister error and the amount to be abated is \$3,240.20

The last group was for personal property:

- Avada Hearing Care Center: \$229.52
- Caitmar, Inc. dba Corner Wash: \$11.16
- Center for Human Potential: \$133.64
- Expedition Kids: \$24.12
- Michael Flanagan: \$11.96
- Four T's Thrift Shop: \$161.80
- Glow Center: \$71.72
- Jupiter Rising Bakery: \$131.60
- Koffee Kup Bakery: \$26.12
- Laura's Hair Frenzy: \$24.54
- Mac-Sam Tennis: \$121.30

- Mindful Monkey Yoga: \$8.73
- Rik & Kat's Howlin Mouse: \$12.24
- Teleflex Medical Inc.: \$134.80
- Unlimited Potential: \$4.48
- Up In Smoke Shop: \$71.72

For a total of \$1,179.45

At 5:44 PM the Board moved into deliberative session. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Talbott. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) to deny the abatement request for Donna Rounds LaRose as water and sewer are utilities and a payment plan should be established. Motion passed.

At 5:47 PM the Board came out of deliberative session.

President Allaire then moved on to Treasurer Markowski's various accounts for abatement.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) to move to abate the following accounts that are over 15 -years old.

- Grand Performance: \$360.84
- Interconnect Telecommunication: \$1,263.84
- Canine to Five: \$73.53
- Laughing Moon Gallery: \$36.08

For a total of \$1,734.29. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Savage) to abate \$3,240.20 in property taxes for Margot Gartner. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Savage) to abate the following accounts for personal property.

- Avada Hearing Care Center: \$229.52
- Caitmar, Inc. dba Corner Wash: \$11.16
- Center for Human Potential: \$133.64
- Expedition Kids: \$24.12
- Michael Flanagan: \$11.96
- Four T's Thrift Shop: \$161.80
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- Mindful Monkey Yoga: \$8.73
- Rik & Kat's Howlin Mouse: \$12.24
- Teleflex Medical Inc.: \$134.80
- Unlimited Potential: \$4.48
- Up In Smoke Shop: \$71.72

For a total of \$1,179.45. Motion passed.

At 5:50 PM Chair Allaire noted he would entertain a motion to adjourn. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Cupoli. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Kapusta
Clerk, Board of Tax Abatement