

**CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT**  
**Board of Tax Abatement Minutes**  
**February 12, 2024**

**Minutes of Open Session**

Members present: Treasurer Markowski, Assessor Langlois, Linda Heald, Clerk Kapusta, Attorney LaChance; Aldermen Talbott, McClure, Cupoli, Savage, Tadio, Hooker, Davis, Gillam, and McCann.

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

Chair Talbott opened the meeting noting two (2) requests and moved to start with Debra Wortman's abatement request. Chair Talbott then asked those giving testimony to be sworn in by the Clerk. Debra and Theresa Wortman were sworn in.

**Debra Wortman; Abatement for 29 Ronaldo Court**

Chair Talbott introduced the request for Debra Wortman. Chair Talbott asked if any member of the Board of Tax Abatement would be testifying, if there were any conflicts of interests or ex-parte communication, seeing none, Chair Talbott read the statutory criteria checked by Mrs. Wortman 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).

Theresa Wortman, daughter of Debra Wortman spoke. Mr. Wortman died on June 13, 2023, and he was the sole caretaker of their home. Within a couple of months after his passing, Mrs. Wortman received an email alert from the City of Rutland regarding a suspected leak. Ms. Wortman changed out the showerhead that had started to leak and thought everything was fixed until a few weeks later another email alert was received. At this same time, it was discovered that they were going through hundreds of gallons of fuel in a short amount of time. Fuel is only used to heat the hot water. A plumbing and heating specialist was called in. It was determined that something was wrong with the object that controls the hot water, and it was replaced. Two weeks later another email alert was received and on that same day they ran out of fuel again. The plumbing and heating specialist came back and completed a more comprehensive assessment of the pipes to find that one of the main water pipes under the house had burst. The next day new pipes were installed. After this they did not receive any further email alerts.

Chair Talbott then asked if anyone else wanted to give testimony. There were none.

There was a brief discussion from the Board.

Chair Talbott explained to Mrs. Wortman the Board would close her hearing and that they would move to deliberative session at the end of the hearing and the Board would make a decision on her request. That decision would be mailed within thirty (30) days.

At 5:40 PM Chair Talbott closed the open hearing.

Chair Talbott then moved on to the request for 401 US Route 7 South, Days Inn.

**Vidyasagar Gudipelly – Days Inn: 401 US Route 7 South**

Chair Talbott introduced the request for Vidyasagar Gudipelly. Chair Talbott asked if any member of the Tax Abatement Board would be testifying, if there were any conflicts of interests or ex-parte communication. Chair Talbott then asked Clerk Kapusta to swear in Mr. Gudipelly. Chair Talbott asked Mr. Gudipelly if he had received the Board rules on procedure for this hearing. Mr. Gudipelly acknowledged that he had. Chair Talbott read the statutory criteria checked by Mr. Gudipelly for his request for abatement. Taxes of 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).

Mr. Gudipelly explained there was an underground water line broken in the summer of 2023. He tried to fix the broken water line, but do to flooding, all the companies he contacted were already booked. In October of 2023 he was finally able to get the underground broken line fixed.

Chair Talbott then asked if anyone else wanted to give testimony. There were none.

There were no questions from the Board.

Chair Talbott explained to Mr. Gudipelly the Board would close his hearing and that they would move into deliberative session at the end of the hearing and the Board would make a decision on his request. That decision would be mailed within thirty (30) days.

At 5:47 PM Chair Talbott closed the open hearing.

At 5:48 PM Chair Talbott indicated the Board of Tax Abatement would move to enter into deliberative session. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderwoman Savage. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, McCann) to abate the excess sewer charges for Debra Wortman at 29 Ronaldo Court. The bill included \$710.45 in sewer charges, the average that the customer was charged for sewer was \$149.25 over the previous four (4) quarters. The abatement amount is the total of \$710.45 less the average of \$149.25 to arrive at the abatement amount of \$561.20. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to deny the abatement request for Vidyasagar Gudipelly at 401 US Route 7 South. **Motion passed.**

At 6:22 PM the Board came out of deliberative session.

At 6:23 PM, Chair Talbott noted he would entertain a motion to adjourn. So moved (Davis, McClure). **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Kapusta  
Clerk, Board of Tax Abatement