

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
BOARD OF ABATEMENT
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Tuesday, June 29th, 2020, 6:00PM
Tunbridge Town Hall**

Present: Gary Mullen, Mike McPhetres, Rob Howe, Marsha Higgins, Joe Paquin, Becky Hoyt, Diana Fletcher, Diane Fletcher, Jillian Conner, Helen O'Donnell, Jola Brock, Rudi Ruddell

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

O'Donnell nominated Rob Howe to be Chair of the Board of ABatement. Conner seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Howe was elected chair of the Board of Abatement.

Criteria for tax abatement, as listed in statute, was read aloud by Ruddell.

Diane Fletcher, plaintiff, spoke to her reasons for requesting tax abatement. She explained that her husband, Frank, who recently passed away, became ill in the past year and was unable to work. The loss of his income combined with the full custody of their granddaughter, put them behind in their tax payments in 2018 and 2019.

Paquin, Collector of Delinquent taxes, listed off the amounts owed by Fletcher to the town. From the year of 2018, \$1,125.25 in taxes, \$131.92 in interest, and \$80.38 in penalty is owed. From 2019, \$1,533.84 in taxes, \$130.39 in interest, and \$122.71 in penalty is owed. \$3,124.51 is owed in total. Paquin had discussed working out a payment plan with Fletcher but it never came to fruition.

Hoyt asked Fletcher if she is eligible for state assistance. Fletcher said in the past they were not eligible because their income was too high to qualify, but she should be this year. Fletcher was asked if she will be able to pay her 2020 taxes. She responded that yes, she has enough saved to cover this year's taxes.

Fletcher took an oath swearing that she was telling the whole truth, administered by Howe.

McPhetres made a motion to abate the penalties owed by Fletcher. No second.

Higgins asked about proper procedure and whether the plaintiff should be asked to leave if she has made her statement and answered all questions from Board. The Board agreed that that is proper procedure. Howe asked Fletcher if she had any final comments before being asked to exit. She did not. Her daughter, Diana Fletcher, asked the Board to remember that Diane's husband recently passed and that if the taxes can't be abated, Fletcher may need to leave the home she has worked her entire life for.

Diane and Diana Fletcher both left the meeting at this point.

Becky Hoyt's, Treasurer, inclination was to let all the taxes, interest and fee be abated completely. Hoyt feels confident that Fletcher will make every effort to pay her taxes on time and in entirety moving forward, and she will most likely qualify for state assistance this year which will also help. There was no disagreement from the rest of the Board.

Mullen made a motion to abate all of Diane Fletcher's unpaid taxes, interest and penalty, accrued from the tax years 2019 and 2018, totaling \$3,124.51. Brock seconded. No discussion. All in favor, so moved.

Conner motioned to adjourn at 6:34pm. O'Donnell seconded. So moved.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ _____
Jillian Conner, Town Clerk