

**WILMINGTON BOARD OF ABATEMENT  
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022, AT 5:30PM  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Wilmington Board of Abatement convened at 5:30pm on March 28, 2022, in the Town Hall.

IN ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved with 12 out of 16 members present. Justices of the Peace – Elizabeth McEwen, Fred Houston, Linda Green, John Lebron, Patti Long; Board of Listers – Jerry Osler, Len Chapman; Selectboard – John Gannon, Tom Fitzgerald, Tony Tribuno, Vince Rice; Town Treasurer – not available; Town Clerk –Therese Lounsbury.

Also in attendance: Bonni Pactor via telephone.

1. CALLED TO ORDER at 5:33pm by Town Clerk Therese Lounsbury to then request nominations for the chair of the board. Motion to nominate Elizabeth McEwen made by Fred Houston, seconded by Tom Fitzgerald. No other nominations. Motion carried.

2. MEETING PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS – Elizabeth explained the steps and expectations of the hearing.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

4. DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – No conflicts of interest were declared.

5. SWEARING IN – Chair Elizabeth McEwen conducted the swearing in.

6. HEARING SCHEDULE

6a. (5:35pm) The Board heard a request by Bonni Pactor, 50 Sunrise Hill Lane, Parcel ID 00301028.200, SPAN 762-242-12499. Ms. Pactor dialed into the meeting via the conference phone. She shared the circumstances of the change in home ownership, that the taxes were previously on an autopay. When she was contacted regarding the tax payment being late, she immediately brought the account up to date. The request was made for the relief of the late charge of \$382.53 and interest of \$47.82 under the criteria of taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees (24 VSA §1535 (a) (3). No Income/Expense Sheet was provided. The board discussed the statutory criteria for abatement, that inability to pay did not match the circumstance, and that it is the taxpayer's responsibility to know when and what taxes are due.

6b. (5:47pm) The Board heard a request by Paul Pizzano, 20 Whitney Lane, Parcel ID 02022031.000, SPAN 762-242-12690. Mr. Pizzano was unable to appear because of a funeral out of state. His request described a broken pipe situation that flooded the basement and incurred a large water bill, \$4,014.60. He worked with Chris Lavoy, Chief Operator, of the Wilmington Water District who suggested that the water district would forgive 50% prior to the Water District now falling under the Town purview. The Town Clerk had the current balance from the Finance Office of \$3,700. The request was made for a reduction in the charges and a payment plan under the criteria of taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees (24 VSA §1535 (a) (3). Mr. Pizzano provided an Income/Expense Sheet.

7. The Board entered deliberative session at 5:59pm. Returned to regular session at 6:16pm.

8. MOTION TO DENY the relief of the late charge of \$382.53 and interest of \$47.82 under the criteria of taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees (24 VSA §1535 (a) (3). Motion made by Fred Houston, seconded by Patti Long. Motion carried.

MOTION TO DENY the request for a reduction in the charges and a payment plan under the criteria of taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest, and/or collection fees (24 VSA §1535 (a) (3). Motion made by Tom Fitzgerald, seconded by Tony Tribuno. Motion carried.

9. OTHER BUSINESS – A Town Meeting Article increased the number of Justices of the Peace to 10. So far, John Lebron, Patti Long, and Tom Fitzgerald committed to returning to the ballot in November.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Fred Houston, seconded by Tony Tribuno. Adjourned at 6:19pm.

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND OFFICIAL RECORD OF ALL ACTION TAKEN AT THE BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING HELD, MARCH 28, 2022.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Therese M. Lounsbury, Wilmington Town Clerk

DATE: MARCH 28, 2022

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE INDICATION OF THE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING HELD, MARCH 28, 2022.

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