

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT HEARING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024, 3:00 P.M.**

Those attending in person: Susan Carpenter, Amy Monahan, Betty Ritter, Jeanne Johnson, Fred Ducharme, Mike Hogan; via zoom: Brittany Butler, Jacqueline Lumbra, Karen Larsen, Carla Payne, Beth Wade

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Susan Carpenter at 3:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda - A motion was made by Mike with a second by Fred Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – There was no public comment. approve Ann, Fred, - no discussion – motion carried.
4. Review Abatement of Taxes for Michael Malone for 2022 and 2023 – review his request. Betty advised that we have no communication with him to the letter we sent to him via First Class Mail and email. We therefore reviewed the information that we have since Michael Malone did not offer any further information.
5. Deliberative Session – Susan asked if anyone felt that we should go into Deliberative Session. Everyone agreed that it was not necessary to go in in Deliberative Session.
6. Decision of Board of Abatement Hearing – There is a statute for abating taxes for hardship. Mike Hogan wanted to know what the precedent is of people in the past that had come to the Board. We had only one and that was health related. Sue stated it would be nice to show mercy in some other way and wish we could, without it sitting too much of a precedent. Jacqueline stated that he has a case for 2023 taxes and his divorce should not play into this. His wife did file for the homestead exemption for the current taxes. We did lay to rest the 2022 taxes. He can make a request for abatement on these taxes if he chooses. All from what we heard from him were the taxes that were due in January 2024 for the 2023 tax year.

We can review in terms of looking at the numbers and figure out the 5 months of post flood. Karen mentioned that she was never in the house but saw the damage outside. Fred stated that he has been in basement for the last 50 years or so and basically water was always running in the basement even when it was dry outside. The amount we could consider is \$1,600 for 6 months (1/2 year) to abate. At this time, we cannot decide without further information. Could we consider a motion that we would hear from Mike Malone, and he could request another hearing. A motion was made by Karen saying that if Mike Malone would give some more information he could ask for a new hearing with a second by Fred Ducharme. Sue then took a vote by name. Amy-yes; Betty-Yes, Jeanne-yes; Fred-yes, Mike, yes; Brittan-yes, Jacqueline-Yes; Karen-yes, with Susan abstaining. Motion carried. Betty will send another letter to Mike indicating that he could do another request for 2023 with further information.

7. Other Business – There was no further business.
8. Motion to Adjourn – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Amy, motion carried. We adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk