Minutes draft: Paquin Abatement 8/25/2026

Board of abatement:

In attendance: Skip Bothfeld, Jenn Miner, Amy Monahan, Peggy Miller, Jacqueline Lumbra, Jeanne Johnson, Brittany Butler, Roman K, Erin and IJ Paquin, Fred Ducharme.

Meeting called to order by Skip at 5:00pm

Motion to approve agenda by Jacqueline and 2nd by Peggy

Public Comment-none

Erin spoke of the hardship they are facing, they are not sure what the ask is, they had paperwork from Sue but did not sign as they cannot afford what they were asked to sign. IJ has not worked in a few years and Erin just started working within the last year.

The tax abatement is for 5,674.85 for 2024. And for 2025 3,384. Around 9,000 without penalties and interest. The tax bill for 2026 is 6,343.70.

Jeanne asks if it is for only 2025. Erin says no, it would be an abatement for 24 and 25 for a total of about 9,000 in abated taxes minus a 2000 dollar payment that was brought in last week. Jeanne wants to make sure they are filing their homestead on time. They believe they are.

Motion to go into deliberative session, Jacqueline, Peggy 2nd, motion carried.

Out of deliberative session at 5:29-Jacqueline motion 2nd by Jeanne and Jenn makes motion to check with VITA to see if there is any assistance they can receive from them prior to considering a formal abatement and provide documentation to set another meeting. Tentatively for October 1st. Amy 2nd motion carried.

Zoom Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on reviewing an abatement request from IJ and Erin for their property located at 2816 South Walden Road, Cabot, Vermont. The couple requested financial hardship abatement for outstanding tax bills from 2024 and 2025, with approximately $9,000-2,000 payment, owed including penalties and interest. IJ explained that he was medically exempt from work and had been unemployed since June 2023, while Erin recently started working at a bank's contact center serving customers. The board discussed the outstanding amounts, with $5,674.85 owed for 2024 and $3,384.30 for 2025, and noted that a $2,000 payment had been made but not yet reflected in the totals. The board moved into deliberation to discuss the abatement request, though specific decisions were not finalized during this portion of the meeting.

Property Abatement Request Discussion

Jenn/Skip led a meeting where they approved the agenda. The main discussion centered on a property abatement request from Parcel ID 05-037-0.000 located at 2816 South Walden Road in Cabot, Vermont.

Erin mentioned receiving paperwork from Sue regarding financial payment plan but noted they did not sign it yet, as they cannot afford the payments requested and indicated they had gathered some money to put toward taxes for the property this month.

Tax Payment and Resolution Options

Erin discussed her current employment at Northfield Savings Bank in a contact center role, where she helps elderly customers with online banking. She explained her previous unemployment situation and medical exemption that affects her husband's ability to work. The discussion focused on resolving outstanding tax bills, with Erin mentioning a $2,400 monthly payment related to a lien/mortgage against a farm sale and exploring options for direct deposit arrangements to manage future tax obligations.

Tax Outstanding Amount Discussion

Amy discussed outstanding tax amounts for 2024 and 2025, noting a $2,000 payment pending that is not yet reflected in the totals. The current outstanding amount is close to $9,000, not including penalties and interest. Amy also mentioned that the total tax bill for 2026 is $6,343.70, and Erin mentioned they typically receive a check from land use to help cover these costs. The discussion concluded with confirmation that the request is to abate the remaining owed amount for 2024 and 2025, which totals around $9,000.

Homestead Tax Abatements Discussion

The meeting focused on discussing homestead tax abatements and filing deadlines. Jeanne explained that there are penalties for filing the HS122 form late, but not for the HS144 form, and recommended checking with their accountant to ensure they receive the maximum possible credit. The group then moved into deliberation on abatements, with a motion made to proceed with deliberations.

2024 Payment Forgiveness Discussion

Skip proposed the property owners check with VITA for potential financial assistance before considering a formal abatement. The group agreed to a motion requiring the owners to provide documentation by October 1st, after which they would reconvene to discuss the case. The meeting was adjourned with all members present.