

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING  
Held on February 21, 2024

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order in person by Board Chair Tabitha Tant at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Barre, VT. In attendance in person were: Thom Lauzon, Tim Boltin, Amanda Gustin, Rosemary Averill, Emel Cambel, William Toborg, Samn Stockwell, Michael Boutin, Jake Hemmerick, Patti Bisson, Karen Lauzon, Therese Taylor, Assessor Larry Martin, and City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes.

Members absent: Peter Anthony, Ivana Argenti, Michael Deering, Tom Kelly, Lisa Liotta, Brian Parker, Haley Pero, and Teddy Waszazak.

The Board approved the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting on motion of Board Member Stockwell, seconded by Board Member Toborg. **Motion carried.**

Chair Tant opened the abatement hearings, and administered the oath to all requesters present.

- **BOA #2024-07: Washington Co. Mental Health, 23 Summer St. Parcel #1405-0023.0000.**  
No representatives from WCMH were present. The Board will review the request in deliberative session.
- **BOA #2024-10: Mark Meyerzon & Fiona Sullivan, 27 Highland Ave. Parcel #0785-0027.0000.**  
Mr. Meyerzon and Ms. Sullivan were not present. The Board will review the request in deliberative session.
- **BOA #2024-18B: Bob & Linda Nelson, 172 N. Main Street. Parcel #1095-0172.0000.**  
Bob & Linda Nelson said they purchased the property on October 2, 2023, and are seeking abatement of taxes starting with that date. They said the elevator and HVAC systems in the basement were destroyed because of flooding. The building was without heat until November 14, 2023. There was no displacement of the law office located on the second and third floors. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Toborg. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2024-23: Trustees of the Timothy William Ramon Revocable Trust, 74 Currier Street. Parcel #0450-0072.**  
Mr. Ramon was not present. The Board will review the request in deliberative session.
- **BOA #2024-26: David Lee & Pamela Guptil, 47 Elm Street. Parcel #0530-0047.0000.**  
Pamela Guptil said flooding in the basement destroyed the heating and hot water systems. Her son is living in the home, but is limited to about ½ of the downstairs, representing approximately 25% of the livable area, as there is no heat or hot water in the building. There was damage to the back wall of the foundation. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member Toborg, seconded by Board Member Stockwell. **Motion carried.**
- **BOA #2024-29: Susan Kelley & Rick Rich, 7 Hawes Place. Parcel #0760-0007.0000.**
- **BOA #2024-32: Sue Kelley, 515 N. Main Street. Parcel #1095-0515.0000.**
- **BOA #2024-33: Sue Kelley, 5 Second Street. Parcel #1290-0005.0000.**  
Ms. Kelley was not present. The Board will review her requests in deliberative session.
- **BOA #2024-35: Janell Perry, 8 Horace Lane. Parcel #0810-0008.0000.**  
Ms. Perry was not present. The Board will review the request in deliberative session.
- **BOA #2024-36: Sarah & Bradley Miller, 372 N. Main Street. Parcel #1095-0372.0000.**  
Sarah Miller said there are five units in the building. Three units were rented out, and her family occupied the other two units at the time of the flood. Flood waters filled the basement and onto the first floor. They lost all heating systems, and hot water heaters for all units. Six electrical boxes were destroyed, and there is foundation damage leaving gaps that allow water to continue

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to enter the building. The building is considered substantially damaged, and would need to be brought up to flood code if restored. All tenants were displaced, and the Millers assisted them in finding homes. Nothing is habitable, and they cannot afford to do the work necessary to bring the building up to code. They have requested a FEMA buyout. The hearing closed on motion of Board Member Toborg, seconded by Board Member Stockwell. **Motion carried.**

The Board went into deliberative session at 6:38 PM on motion of Board Member Toborg, seconded by Board Member T. Lauzon. **Motion carried.**

The Board came out of deliberative session at 7:14 PM on motion of Board Member Stockwell, seconded by Board Member Lauzon. **Motion carried.**

The following decisions were made in deliberative session, and written decisions will be sent to the requesters within 15 days, as required by statute:

- **BOA #2024-07: Washington Co. Mental Health, 23 Summer St. Parcel #1405-0023.0000.**  
The Board approved an abatement of \$1,900, which was the amount requested by WCMH.
- **BOA #2024-10: Mark Meyerzon & Fiona Sullivan, 27 Highland Ave. Parcel #0785-0027.0000.**  
The Board denied any abatement, as there was a lack of evidence of loss of assessed value caused by flooding.
- **BOA #2024-18B: Bob & Linda Nelson, 172 N. Main Street. Parcel #1095-0172.0000.**  
The Board approved a 25% abatement of taxes on the building from date of purchase (October 2, 2023) through November 14, 2023, when heat was restored to the building.
- **BOA #2024-23: Trustees of the Timothy William Ramon Revocable Trust, 74 Currier Street. Parcel #0450-0072.**  
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on the assessed value of the deck (\$3,130) from the date of the flood through June 30, 2024.
- **BOA #2024-26: David Lee & Pamela Guptil, 47 Elm Street. Parcel #0530-0047.0000.**  
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on the assessed value of the building from the date of the flood through March 31, 2024.
- **BOA #2024-29: Susan Kelley & Rick Rich, 7 Hawes Place. Parcel #0760-0007.0000.**  
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on the assessed value of the building from the date of the flood through March 31, 2024.
- **BOA #2024-32: Sue Kelley, 515 N. Main Street. Parcel #1095-0515.0000.**  
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on the assessed value of the building (trailer) from the date of the flood through June 30, 2024.
- **BOA #2024-33: Sue Kelley, 5 Second Street. Parcel #1290-0005.0000.**  
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on the assessed value of the building from the date of the flood through March 31, 2024.
- **BOA #2024-35: Janell Perry, 8 Horace Lane. Parcel #0810-0008.0000.**  
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on the assessed value of the building from the date of the flood for a period of 77 days, when the building was uninhabitable, based on written

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testimony from Ms. Perry. There's an additional abatement based on 50% of the assessment of the building from the end of the 77-day period through March 31, 2024.

- **BOA #2024-36: Sarah & Bradley Miller, 372 N. Main Street. Parcel #1095-0372.0000.**  
The Board approved abatement of taxes based on the assessed value of the building from the date of the flood through June 30, 2024.

The next Board of Abatement hearings are scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 6 PM in the City Council Chambers. Clerk Dawes said the list of properties under consideration will be a bit shorter to allow time for a BCA pre-election meeting in advance of the March 5, 2024 elections.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM on motion of Board Member T. Lauzon, seconded by Board Member Toborg. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, Clerk/Treasurer

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