



**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 23, 2025**

- Members: Charlie Burnham, Chris Palermo*, Donnie Blake, Don McDowell, George Cormier, Julia Compagna, Richard Craig, Roland Billings, Shap Smith, Shelley Nolan, and Sara Haskins (Clerk).
- Listers: Grant Wieler and Kevin Petrochko.
- Absent: Darcie Abbene, Ed Wilson, Judy Bickford, Laura Streets, Leah Hollenberger, Monte Mason, Siri Rooney, Urban Martin, Yvette Mason and Brian Yeaton.
- Applicants: Aloysius Rufe*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Donnie Blake called the Board of Abatement Meeting to order at 6:13 PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of December 5, 2024

Motion made by Shap Smith to approve the minutes of December 5, 2024. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (13/0)

HEARINGS PURSUANT TO TITLE 24 V.S.A § 1535 TO CONSIDER ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES

1. Stern Family LLC- 505 Carroll Mountain Lane (16008-01)

Chair Donnie Blake opened the hearing at 6:15 PM by stating the name of the Applicant, property location, parcel ID number.

Neither the Applicant nor a representative were present. As the Applicant was not present, Chair Blake could not administer the oath to them nor ask if they received a copy of the rules of procedure or had any questions about how the hearing would proceed.

Chair Blake asked Board members to disclose any conflicts of interest and/or ex parte communication. There was none.

As the Applicant was not present, Chair Blake read the abatement request form and the written narrative on their behalf. The Applicant requested abatement of taxes of \$690.78 in interest & penalty for the 2024-2025 tax year due to the statutory category taxes or charges in which there is a manifest error or mistake of the listers pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535(a)(4). The written request testimony stated that the Applicant's brother, who cares for his elderly mother and both live in the house, were

not aware that a second tax installment was due in May. They were expecting a second bill to be mailed to them as a reminder.

Kevin Petrochko shared testimony on behalf of the Listers. Kevin stated that the Listers did not find that this situation was a Listers mistake and therefore did not align with the statutory request that the abatement request was made under.

Chair Blake invited questions from the Board. There were none.

Chair Blake explained that the Board would enter deliberative session and would issue a written decision within 30 days.

The Board closed the hearing at 6:19 PM.

2. Rufe, Aloysius & Carolyn-105 Adams Way (16121)

Chair Donnie Blake opened the hearing at 6:20 PM by stating the name of the Applicant, property location, parcel ID number.

Chair Blake administered the oath to the Applicant, Aloysius Rufe.

Chair Blake asked the Board members to disclose any conflicts of interest and/or ex parte communication. There was none.

Chair Blake asked the Applicant if they had received a copy of the rules of procedure and if they had any questions about how the hearing would proceed. The Applicant states they had received them and did not have any questions at that time.

Chair Blake asked the Applicant to identify the statutory category in which the abatement request is being made and present verbal and documentary evidence supporting the abatement request to the Board. A written abatement request form and narrative were presented asking for abatement of taxes of \$327.02 in interest & penalty for the 2024-2025 tax year due to the exemption amount available to certain veterans and their family members under 32 V.S.A. § 3802(11) otherwise eligible for exemption who file a claim on or after May 1 but before October 1 due to the claimant's sickness or disability or other good cause as determined by the board of abatement; but that exemption amount shall be reduced by 20 percent of the total exemption for each month or portion of a month the claim is late filed. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(6). Mr. Rufe shared testimony that he is a retired Master Sergeant for the US Army Reserves. He built his house in 1973 and has always paid his bills on time and are good citizens who support the local economy. He made a mistake and didn't pay his taxes on time as he was waiting for a second installment bill to come in the mail, like he receives quarterly in Massachusetts for his permanent residency. As this was his first mistake paying the bill late, he is asking for abatement of the interest and penalty.

Kevin Petrochko shared that there was no future testimony on behalf of the Listers.

Chair Blake invited questions from the Board. There were none.

Chair Blake explained that the Board would enter deliberative session and would issue a written decision within 30 days.

The Board closed the hearing at 6:26 PM.

OTHER BUSINESS

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Motion made by Don McDowell to go into deliberative session at 6:26 PM. Motion seconded by Shelley Nolan. Motion carried (13/0).

Motion made by Don McDowell to exit the deliberative session at 6:37 PM. Motion seconded by Shelley Nolan. Motion carried (13/0).

ADJOURN

Motion made by Charlie Burnham to adjourn. Motion seconded by Shap Smith. Motion carried. (13/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Submitted and filed this June 25, 2025.

Sara Haskins, Clerk

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Board of Abatement meeting.