

## TOWN OF BARRE - TAX GRIEVANCE HEARING

January 24, 2018

### AGENDA

(This meeting is being audio taped.)

1. Reconvene the FY 2017-2018 Tax Grievance Hearing 7:30 p.m. approximate  
(Immediately following the Board of Abatement meeting)
2. Changes to the Agenda
3. Approve the Tax Grievance Hearing minutes of September 27, 2017 and October 24, 2017.
4. Valley Concrete - appeal withdrawn. No other appeals to hear.
5. Other Business:
  - A) Quick review of hearing process. Any changes the Board would like to consider for next year?
6. Adjourn the tax grievance hearing for 2017-2018

### TAX GRIEVANCE HEARING MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Paul Malone reconvened the FY 17-18 Tax Grievance Hearing on this 24th day of January 2018 at 7:17 p.m.

**ROLE CALL** - The following members were present: Chair Paul Malone, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Charles "Chip" Castle, Jeanne Daniele, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Ed Paquin, Virginia Poplawski, Dottye Ricks, Christopher Violette, R. Lee Walther, Shelia Walther, Tom White, Paul White. Members who were absent include: Jeff Blow, Pearl Bugbee, William Bugbee, J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Bob Nelson, Jay Perkins, and Rolland Tessier.

**AGENDA** - *By consensus the agenda was accepted as presented.*

### MINUTE APPROVAL

*On a motion by Paquin, seconded by Mitchell, the Board of Tax Grievance voted unanimously to approve the Tax Grievance Hearing meeting minutes of September 27, 2017 with the correction of adding Jack Mitchell to the list of those in attendance.*

*On a motion by Paquin, seconded by Mitchell, the Board of Tax Grievance voted unanimously to approve the Tax Grievance Hearing meeting minutes of October 25, 2017.*

### APPEALS

It is noted for the record that Valley Concrete withdrew their appeal prior to the November 2017 scheduled meeting. Therefore, all appeals to the Tax Grievance Board have been heard.

### OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Clerk asked for comments on the grievance process and perhaps ways to improve the process. Consensus of those present is they would like to see the appeals heard sooner, perhaps during July and August. The Clerk reminded those present to conduct business we must have a quorum (at least 11 and hope for no recusals). In the past due to BCA and appellant vacations, and town staffing conflicts quorum has been an issue. This resulted in the current practice of the delay between first hearing (usually late July) and taking evidence beginning September (week after Labor Day).

Scheduling of hearing evidence: The Clerk has been instructed to attempt to schedule the taking of evidence during the first Tax Grievance hearing which is

customarily in late July 2018. Taking evidence during this meeting will require the inspection committee(s) to report back to the full Board no later than 30 days after taking evidence. It was noted that August 2018 will be a busy month for the BCA and Town Clerk as there will be tabulator testing no later than August 3<sup>rd</sup>, a checklist update meeting August 8<sup>th</sup>, Statewide Primary Election August 14<sup>th</sup>, Property Taxes/Sewer due on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and town staff (Assessor and Town Clerk) vacations during the period August 19 through Labor Day. Keeping in mind we need a quorum to conduct business things will be tight. This timeline does not take into consideration that perhaps our proposed meeting dates will not conflict with their schedule(s).

**ADJOURN**

*On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Tom White, the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Tax Grievance Hearing was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. The following members were not present for the vote: Jeff Blow, Pearl Bugbee, William Bugbee, J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Bob Nelson, Jay Perkins, and Rolland Tessier.*

*The minutes as submitted by Clerk of the Board:*

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*Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer*