

TOWN OF BARRE - TAX GRIEVANCE HEARING
July 27, 2016

AGENDA

(This meeting is being audio taped.)

1. Call to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Amend the Agenda
3. Approve minutes of June 15, 2016 Board of Abatement meetings.
4. Administer Oath to Board Members:
I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly hear and determine all matters at issue between taxpayers and Assessor submitted for my decision. So help me God (or under the pains and penalties of perjury).
5. This hearing is being audio taped. Be advised the tape recorder can pick up background conversations. Speak clearly and identify yourself.
6. In accordance with Vermont Statutes, Chapter 32, Section 4404 (b), the first Tax Grievance hearing must begin no later than 14 days after the last date allowed for the notice of appeal, at some place within the Town. The deadline to submit appeals to this Board was Thursday, July 14, 2016.
7. Review the Tax Grievance code of Conduct Policy. Review the Abatement Hearing Code of Conduct Policy.
8. Other Business:
 - A) Next Grievance Meeting is Wednesday, September 14, 2016 to take evidence from the Assessor and appellants.
 - B) Next BCA Regular Meeting is Wednesday, August 3, 2016 to update the checklist for the August 9, 2016 State Primary elections.
 - C) Report from BCA members who attended the July training in Montpelier.
 - D) Any changes to the calendar for 2016-2017?
 - E) Justice of the Peace party nominations/petitions are due Friday, August 12, 2016. Be sure to let your party Chair know if you do not plan to run for re-election.
 - F) To discuss any other Board of Civil Authority business as needed.
9. A motion to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

TAX GRIEVANCE HEARING MINUTES

July 27, 2016

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Paul Malone called the Tax Grievance Hearing meeting to order on this 27th day of July 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

ROLE CALL - The following members were present: Chair Paul Malone, Town Clerk-Treasurer Donna J. Kelty, Pearl Bugbee, William Bugbee, Charles "Chip" Caste, Tracy Delude, Philip Kolling, Robert LaClair, W. John "Jack" Mitchell, Jay Perkins, Virginia Poplawski, R. Lee Walther, Shelia Walther, and Paul White. Those absent included: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Edward Paquin, Roland Tessier, Christopher Violette, and Tom White.

THE AGENDA was accepted as printed.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Delude the BCA voted to approve the Abatement meeting minutes of June 15, 2016 with the following corrections:

1. Page 1 under members present add the names of William Bugbee and Paul White;
2. Page 7, Other business, Item A, the first three paragraphs had sentences reworded for clarification purposes (see corrected minutes on file in the Clerk's Office).

The following members were not present for the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Edward Paquin, Roland Tessier, Christopher Violette, and Tom White.

BCA OATH

The BCA members present were administered their oath. The Chair reminded the Board members and those present the tax grievance hearings are being audio taped. Please speak clearly and identify yourself prior to speaking.

POSTING CERTIFICATION

The following notice was published (in the Times Argus Newspaper) and posted (Barre Town Municipal Building, Barre Town website, Hannaford's Market, Trow Hill Grocery, and Lawson's Store). "Barre Town Residents - Pursuant to the provision of 32 V.S.A., section 4404 (b) notice was duly given that the Board of Civil Authority (B.C.A.) within and for the Town of Barre, Vermont is meeting this 27th day of July 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Selectboard Meeting room, in Lower Websterville to hear grievances of persons, or other parties who are aggrieved by the action of the Assessor's Grievance process and have timely filed their written grievances with the Town Clerk. Hearings will continue as scheduled by the BCA, with appellants until all aggrieved parties are heard."

REVIEW ABATEMENT HEARING & TAX GRIEVANCE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICIES

During the June 2016 Abatement Hearing the Code of Conduct Policy was amended. Those members present were given a copy of the adopted policy for final inspection.

As is required annually, the BCA reviewed the Tax Grievance Policy. The current policy contains language which states that should an employer of a BCA member be mentioned in the documents presented to the Clerk, the Clerk is required to provide all Board members with a copy immediately. During the June 2016 Abatement Meeting the very same paragraph was discussed and removed from the Abatement policy citing that the Clerk does not always know every BCA members employer(s).

On a motion by Lee Walther, seconded by Mitchell, the Board of Civil Authority voted to amend the Tax Grievance Hearing Policy and Code of Conduct by removing the second paragraph in Section 5. The following members were not present for the vote: J. Guy Isabelle, JP Isabelle, Edward Paquin, Roland Tessier, Christopher Violette, and Tom White.

OTHER BUSINESS

This meeting will be continued to September 14, 2016 at which time evidence will be presented by the Assessor and Appellant.

On Wednesday, August 3, 2016 the BCA will meet to update the checklist for the Primary Election (August 9, 2016). The Town Clerk requested that individuals let her know when they are available to work at the polls.

Lee and Sheila Walther attended a Secretary of State election training on July 12, 2016. Sheila reported it was very informative. Highlights were: early voting, what constitutes a "spoiled versus defective" ballot when counting in the State Primary elections, the statewide checklist, polling place versus designated voting area; candidates approach to voters on election day, and not allowing campaign material in the "designated voting area."

Justice of the Peace party nominations and petitions are due Friday, August 12, 2016. If you are not seeking re-election be sure to let your party Chair know.

Chair Malone informed the BCA he attended the Selectboard meeting last night and asked for a clarification on the definition of taxpayer as used in the Town Charter.

RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2016

On a motion by Castle, seconded by William Bugbee, the Tax Grievance Hearing was recessed at 7:12 p.m. to reconvene on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Donna J. Kelty, Town Clerk-Treasurer

B.C.A. Chair

BARRE TOWN BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

TOWN OF BARRE - TAX GRIEVANCE HEARING
OATH OF BOARD MEMBERS

Commencing July 27, 2016

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly hear and determine all matters at issue between taxpayers and Assessor submitted for my decision. So help me God (or under the pains and penalties of Perjury).

Name	Signature
Pearl Bugbee	x <i>Pearl Bugbee</i>
William Bugbee	x <i>William Bugbee</i>
Charles "Chip" Castle	x <i>Chip Castle</i>
Tracy Delude	x <i>T. Delude</i>
J. Guy Isabelle	x
JP Isabelle	x
Donna J. Kelty	x <i>Donna Kelty</i>
Philip Kolling	x <i>Philip Kolling</i>
Robert LaClair	x <i>Robert LaClair</i>
Paul Malone	x <i>Paul Malone</i>
W. John "Jack" Mitchell	x <i>W. John Jack Mitchell</i>
Edward Paquin	x
Jay Perkins	x <i>Jay Perkins</i>
Virginia Poplawski	x <i>Virginia Poplawski</i>
Roland Tessier	x
Christopher Violette	x
R. Lee Walther	x <i>R. Lee Walther</i>
Sheila Walther	x <i>Sheila M. Walther</i>
Tom White	x
Vacant <i>Paul White</i>	x <i>Paul White</i>