

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 8, 2012  
RANDOLPH TOWN HALL  
CONFERENCE ROOM B**

**Present: Justices of the Peace:** Jack Cowdrey, Pam Stafford, Pat Meyer, Barbara Angell, Tom Harty, Richard Burstein, and Ellen Baker (arrived at 6:43 p.m.)  
**Selectboard:** Frank Reed, Jon Kaplan and Larry Richburg (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)  
**Board of Listers:** Donald Sweetser and Polly Frankenburg  
**Town Clerk & Treasurer:** Joyce Mazzucco  
**Others:** Rita Hull and Patrick French

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Board Chair Richard Burstein. This meeting was a continuation of the September 19, 2012 meeting when the meeting needed to be postponed due to a lack of quorum.

The first order of business was to consider the abatement request of Rita Hull, property located at 8 Dudley Street, parcel #209004.000. Ms. Hull's letter, dated July 9, 2012, was entered into evidence and labeled as "Exhibit 1". Mr. Burstein asked Ms. Hull to present her case. She is seeking an abatement of the interest and penalty charges under 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(3), "taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and collection fees."

Ms. Hull described to the Board the circumstances that led to her being delinquent with the property taxes. There were problems with a drug dealer in the neighborhood who kept junk in the yard, and also allowed his vicious dogs to wander freely, which was a menace to the public. About three years ago, her husband's employment status changed, affecting the family income. During this time there were also a number of medical problems with family members (husband was hospitalized, and son sustained an eye injury), and they incurred some large medical bills.

A discussion followed, with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Richard Burstein, Rita Hull, Joyce Mazzucco, Tom Harty, Pat Meyer, Larry Richburg, Patrick French, Barbara Angell, Pam Stafford, and Don Sweetser. The discussion covered the following: the amount of penalty and interest charges accrued on her account, how long Ms. Hull has owned the property, the status of her mortgage, refinancing her mortgage, the state tax adjustment credit, the property assessed value, and her plans for paying off the delinquent taxes. Ms. Hull has listed the property a few times, but due to the location of the property and the problems with the neighborhood, she has been unsuccessful in selling the property. The total interest charges accrued on the account is \$2,865.74, and the total penalty charges accrued on the account is \$817.82, for a total of \$3,683.56. Ms. Hull has paid some of the penalty and interest charges. If the Board were to abate \$3,683.56, then the application of the abatement would breakdown as such: \$1,507.70 interest, \$157.30 penalty, and \$2,018.56 principal.

The Board agreed to enter into deliberative session at 7:02 p.m.

The Board exited deliberative session at 7:30 p.m.

Pam Stafford made a motion to abate \$1,507.70 in interest charges, \$157.30 in penalty charges and \$2,018.56 in principal, for a total abatement of \$3,683.56. Larry Richburg seconded the motion. A discussion followed with the following individuals participating: Jack Cowdrey, Pat Meyer, Pam Stafford, Richard Burstein, Larry Richburg, Tom Harty and Frank Reed. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote (Yes-11, No-1 [Barbara Angell], and 1 Abstention [Richard Burstein]).

There was no further business to consider. Frank Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Richburg seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk  
Joyce L. Mazzucco