

Minutes of the Board of Abatement
Monday August 19, 2024
28 North Main Street and via zoom

Attendance: Karen Petrovic, Linda Gravell, Kane Sweeney, Alyssa Johnson, Liz Schlegel, Steve Karcher, Roger Clapp, Bob Butler, Amanda McKay, Ian Shea,

Public Attendance: Jake Pitman

ZOOM: Mary Woodruff, Jim Adams, Katrina Vantyne

L. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Approve Agenda: R. Clapp moved to approve the agenda, A. McKay seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Public: none

Lugene Pitman – 36 Union Street: J. Pitman introduced himself and stated he is here to represent his Mother Lugene Pitman the applicant.

L. Schlegel stated the applicants name as Lugene Pitman being represented by son Jake Pitman. Property address of 36 Union Street Waterbury with a Parcel ID of 958-0036

L. Schlegel administered the following oath to Jake Pitman "Under the pains and penalties of perjury, do you solemnly swear that the evidence you give in the cause under consideration shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Respondent answered yes.

L. Schlegel asked if anyone has any conflicts of interest, there being none the meeting proceeded.

L. Schlegel asked if any Board members to disclose any *ex parte* communication, there being none the meeting proceeded.

J. Pitman confirmed he had previously received a copy of the Board's Rules & Procedures.

J. Pitman stated the category he is applying for Abatement under Taxes or charges upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.

Finding of Facts

Property was purchased approximately 15 years ago.

Property has flooded in July & December 2023 and July 2024.

Owner moved to FL about three years ago.

Owner not in a financial place to make any repairs.

Property has applied for a FEMA buyout.

Owner is retired in part to a physical disability.

Property has had no repair work beyond mold mitigation, the drywall is still cut up.

The home cannot be purchased with financing.

Owner suffers finance strains.

Confirmation of facts:

Property has not been occupied since July 2023

There have been a couple to a few offers, coming in \$30-40,000 under assessed value. Well under \$100,000 for the home with one offer close to \$120,000

Request is for the Town to forgive the 2024 property taxes in full - \$4,294.84+21.47=\$4,316.31

J. Pitman did not know why his mother did not ask for tax abatement sooner.

The property has been approved for a FEMA buyout from the Town of Waterbury Select Board. The owner is awaiting state and federal approval.

Deliberative Session: L. Schlegel confirmed this property did not previously request abatement. **B. Butler made a motion to abate property taxes and interest from July 10, 2023 to present. A. McKay seconded the motion.** Discussion followed. A. McKay made a friendly amendment to not abate the \$21.47 in interest. This motion was not seconded. **K. Sweeney made a motion to amend to include any penalty that may have been incurred. S. Karcher seconded the amendment, a vote was held on the motion and amendment and passed unanimously.**

L. Schlegel restated the motion to **refund taxes paid in 2023 including principle, interest and penalty from July 10, 2023 to December 31, 2023 as well as abate all 2024 including interest. Refund should be sent to the property owner.**

Adjourn: B. Butler made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by A. Johnson, a vote was held and passed unanimously.