

DRAFT

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER

BOARD OF ABATEMENT

July 30, 2025 - at Westminster Town Hall

Present: Margaret (Peggy) O'Toole, John Eward, Sarah Waldo (Chair), Susan Roman, Susan Harlow, Matt Conklin, Jeanette Staley, Frances (Nancy) Dalzell, Adrienne Major, Stephen Major, Charles (Chuck Lawrence) Rachael Cohen and Millie Barry

Absent: Jason Perry, Real Bazin, Elizabeth Harlow, Pauline O'Brien, K. Sheldon Beebe and Paul Banik

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair, Sarah Waldo at 7:01 p.m.

The meeting was recorded on Zoom.

2. Abatement Hearing:

A. Saunders-Maziarz/Portyanko:

Sarah Waldo opened the hearing and welcomed Rebecca Saunders and Andriy Portyanko, parcel #011013.000, address 113 Pond Road. Ms. Waldo administered an oath to Ms. Saunders and Mr. Poryanko. The abatement board confirmed they had no conflict of interest. Ms. Saunders stated the abatement fell under the statutory criteria of: Taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, charges, interest and/or collection fees. Ms. Saunders said a payment plan without penalties and interest would be helpful for the 2024/2025 tax year. She believed next year she would be able to pay her taxes due to the change in education state payment. The state payment changed due to the removal of the mobile home from the property and building a new home. Contractor fraud also contributed to about \$40,000 In debt. Sarah Waldo closed the hearing at 7:35 p.m. The Board reconvened regular session at 7:50. Peggy O'Toole motioned to abate interest and penalty fees on Rebecca Saunders/Andriy Portyanko property taxes for the 2024/2025 year and encourage Ms. Saunders to set up a payment plan. Susan Harlow seconded, motion carried by voice vote. John Ewald abstained from vote.

- B. Stephen L. Moore – Parcel #003012.000, address 1772 Route 121, Westminster, VT. The hearing began at 7:50 p.m. and recorded by Zoom.

Mr. Moore did not attend the hearing. Abatement request statutory criteria: Taxes or charges upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year. Abatement request based on the property was a total loss, burned by arson

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3/31/2025.

Rachael Cohen said the property was a camp based on an assessment of \$41,000.00. Craig Allen motioned to reduce the valuation of of the appraised value of the cabin or \$41,000.00. for the tax year for 2025/2026. Jeanette Staley seconded, motion passed by unanimous voice vote. John Ewald inspected the property prior to 7/30/2025.

Adjournment: Susan Harlow motioned to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., Jeanette Staley seconded, meeting adjourned.

Sarah Waldo, Chair

Date

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