

Draft  
Village of Old Bennington  
Board of Abatement Meeting Minutes  
Oct. 1, 2024

The meeting was held at The Barn. The public portion of the meeting was also on Zoom. Here is a link to the Zoom recording of the meeting.

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/3B0kcWUp7ZgQH6AeSLQ3D6FqB5yGOMJQNIfs6KZ2rM-qnl5RLtEn9XwEhnPgAJIE.g2hyu3-VRxK163xf>.

Passcode: y05EH!pS

According to statute, the members of the Board of Abatement are the Trustees of the Village, the Treasurer of the Village and the Clerk of the Village.

Board of Abatement Officials present: Anne Slattery, Presiding Officer of the Village of Old Bennington Board of Trustees; the other Trustees, Than Marcoux, Ed Woods, and Susan Wright; Village Clerk Mary Walsh; and Village Treasurer Ron Rabidou.

Officials absent: Village Trustee Tom Woodward.

Citizens in attendance: Megan Schwarzkopf attended the public portion of the meeting on Zoom.

Call to order: AS called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. She noted that TW was at an out-of-town meeting and couldn't participate on Zoom, but that left six of the seven people, which is more than the four required for a quorum.

AS noted that notification for this meeting was extensive and fulfilled all statutory requirements. The meeting will follow a statutory process. For motions to pass, there must be at least four votes in favor. Meeting materials have been provided to all parties. AS asked the Board of Abatement members if they had received all information related to the request for abatement of Tzaims Luksus. All the officers confirmed that they had received the information and read the request and State requirements.

Earlier this year, the Village received a request in writing, from Tzaims Luksus, to have his unpaid taxes abated, along with all interest and penalties. He also asked to have his future taxes abated. He was asked if he had further information to document his request, and he said No. AS said that the Board of Abatement would move into a deliberative session for discussion and voting, and that once a decision has been made, it must be developed in writing, with an explanation, for public distribution. The decision must be delivered in writing, not orally. According to the State of Vermont's guidance for Boards of Abatement, abatement is not meant to be a way for a municipality to subsidize a taxpayer who is no longer able to afford their taxes.

The Board of Abatement ended the public portion of the meeting and moved into a deliberative session. The Zoom recording and minute taking stopped. The deliberative session ended at 5:54 p.m.