



TOWN OF CALAIS

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Board of Abatement Hearing

*March 25, 2024; continued from February 12, 2024
5:00 pm, Calais Town Hall and Zoom*

Present: Janet Ancel (Chair), Michael Loignon (Vice Chair), John McCullough, Barbara Butler, Anne Winchester, Jamie Moorby, Anne Toolan, Teegan Dykeman-Brown, Dillon Burns, Steve Sweeney, Scott Bassage, Jordan Keyes, Kari Bradley

Via Zoom: Wilson Hughes, Sandra Ferver, Kristina Bielenberg

Janet called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Discussion of draft minutes from previous portion of meeting ensued. Janet wanted to be sure that the update had been made clarifying that she recused herself from her position as Chair during one of the cases not because of a conflict of interest but because of the possibility of a perceived conflict of interest. Teegan confirmed the change has been made.

Janet reminded members that Barbara Butler had sent sample financial disclosure forms to the board for possible consideration. Discussion ensued regarding the merits and shortfalls of each form. Some members found the sample forms to be too invasive and potentially overwhelming for an applicant. Others listed inquiries that were not on the sample forms but that the board might want to use on its own form.

Janet suggested that two or three board members work up a draft of a financial form for the board to approve at the next meeting.

Jordan asked if the information on the forms would be public or confidential. He also asked if either of the current applicants had a history of delinquency.

Barbara suggested that Michael and Scott put together the first draft of a financial form. She offered that she and Teegan could provide formatting assistance if they need it.

Steve wanted to know if we could appoint an advocate for the applicants. Teegan offered that she has been communicating directly with them since the last meeting and has fallen into that role to some extent. Janet confirmed she feels that Teegan, as Town Clerk, is the ideal liaison between the BOA and applicants.

Janet and Barbara agreed that they would prefer any financial information provided by applicants be kept confidential. Dillon would be in favor of the form as long as it was not a requirement.

Janet suggested that it was time for deliberative session. Jordan moved to go into deliberative session at 5:52 pm to discuss both applications submitted to the board. Jamie seconded. Anne Winchester added that the board would like to invite Kari Bradley (who was to be appointed Town Treasurer at the Selectboard meeting later in the evening) to join the session. **Motion carried.**

Anne W. made a motion to come out of deliberative session at 6:26 pm. Jordan seconded.
Motion carried.

Michael made a motion to abate \$4,198.68, the full amount (taxes, interest, and fees) owed by Rebecca Downer, parcel #145047 under abatement criteria *24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(3) Taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and collection fees*. Michael seconded. Janet called for a hand vote, and **the motion carried 13-0-2**.

Janet will contact Rebecca to tell her the news. She will also write the decision.

The meeting was ended at 6:38 pm with the decision to continue the hearing for Craig Line to April 8 at 5:00 pm.