

Town of Pittsford  
Board of Abatement Minutes  
July 24, 2024

In Attendance: Helen McKinlay – Town Clerk/Treasurer, Elizabeth Willis – Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, Charles “Butch” Shaw, William Drummond (zoom), Sue Markowski, Terry Poor, Matt Candon, Bonnie Stewart, Ernie Clerihew, Donnal Wilson, Thomas Ransom, James McRae, Ann Reed – Assistant to the Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Butch Shaw.

There was a motion to amend the agenda to add Jim McRae’s abatement request. The motion was by Terry and seconded by Bonnie. This motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Sue to amend the parcel ID number for Thomas Ransom to 1134, which is his correct parcel number. This was seconded by Terry. This motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion to adopt the amended agenda by Bonnie and seconded by Sue. This motion was passed unanimously.

Butch asked Thomas (Tom) Ransom to move to the front of the room so all could hear him. He also asked why the box on the abatement form was checked that said Taxes in which there is a manifest error. Ann explained that this is a form created by VLCT and that there is no box to check if it is an abatement request for the water and sewer fees. Most people leave it blank or check any box, as none of them are the correct one and she can’t add a box for the water and sewer fees to the form. Tom was then asked by Butch to explain his request for abatement.

Tom stated that he had a pipe that broke while he was away on vacation the weekend that Belden was working on the job site. The pipe was not caught right away and approximately 2000 gallons of water leaked through the house and did not enter the sewer system. He is looking for an abatement for the usage above his normal usage.

Ann stated that she had done some research on Tom’s account and found the difference in usage between the same billing period in 2023 and this billing was 2,220 gallons. This would be a credit for sewer use of \$49.95, as the water did not go down the sewer drain. Butch asked Ann what the difference in the water would be. She calculated it for the 2,220 gallons at \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons and the difference would be \$14.43 for water use.

Tom Ransom exited at this point in the meeting.

Stacia Devaney’s abatement request was reviewed by the Board of Abatement. Stacia did not attend the meeting. Ann did speak, saying she had talked to Stacia. Stacia wanted an abatement of the sewer charges for approximately 10,000 gallons of water due to it not going in the sewer system. Ann stated that Stacia had purchased the property October 14, 2022 and had stable usages for the previous two billing cycles, which was approximately 14,250 gallons. This bill had 10,150 more gallons billed than the previous bill, so this lines up with what Stacia believes to be the extra that did not flow through her sewer, rather it was pumped out of her basement with a pump. The difference for the sewer adjustment would be \$228.37 from her last billing cycle to this one due to the overage of water used.

At 7:30, James (Jim) McRae explained that he moved into the Lawson's property in 1984 and purchased it in 1985. The Lawsons had put in a permit for an apartment. In 1896, Jim's mother in law moved in, then his sister in law lived there for a time. His granddaughter now lives with them. He said he has been paying for two ERUs, including the water base and bond charges and the sewer base and bond charges all of these years, but there has been only one ERU in this house. The total for these should have been \$522 instead of \$1044.

Butch Shaw asked if there was only one meter. Jim said there was.

Ann stated the listers card has a single-family home on one side and multi-family on the other side. She did do some research and it appears a permit was issued to make it a multi-family unit before Jim bought the property. Jim says he voided the permit when he purchased it. Ann has no way of easily verifying that, as it was in the 1980s and she was not working for the Town at that time. The water and sewer software has the property at 2 ERUs and has since the meters were installed. There are two meters on the property, but one goes to the house and one shows how much water was consumed by the sheep. In 2013, her predecessor in her position started giving credit for animal water not going through the sewer. Ann stopped doing this when she started, as she could not find it in a policy or ordinance and it was not done for others that own animals that are on municipal water and sewer.

It was suggested to Jim that he get ahold of the assessor's office to have his lister's card updated.

At 7:39pm Jim exited the meeting.

Ann photocopied her calculations for all of the abatement requests and gave copies to each of the members present in the room as well as Liz Willis and Helen McKinlay.

Ann exited at this point, as the meeting was put into deliberation. The committee exited deliberative session and the following actions were taken.

There was a motion by Donna Wilson and seconded by Terry to abate \$49.95 in sewer charges and \$14.43 in water charges for a total abatement of \$64.38 for Thomas Ransom's abatement request. This passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Bonnie and seconded by Donna to abate \$228.37 in sewer charges for Stacia Devaney. This motion passed.

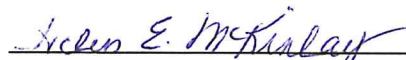
Bonnie stated that Jim McRae's was never a multi-family property. There was a permit to change it into a multi-family but it never was a two family. The bill was \$1430.56, Jim was asking to abate one charge on all base and bond charges for water and sewer.

There was a motion by Terry to abate \$128.00 for the water bond and base charges for Jim McRae. This was seconded by Matt. This motion passed.


There was a motion by Terry to abate \$394.00 for the sewer bond and base charges for Jim McRae. This was seconded by Sue. The motion passed.

This is a total credit of \$522.00 for Jim McRae.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Helen E. McKinlay, Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Willis, Assistant Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles "Butch" Shaw, BCA Chairman