

BOARD OF ABATEMENT

Public Hearing

December 15 2025, 5:00 pm

Mount Holly Town Office

50 School Street, Mount Holly, VT

MINUTES

Attendance: Marc Miller (Chair), Diana Garrow, Carol Garrow-Woolley, David Johnson, Faith Tempest, Ann Hansen, Bob Herbst, Thomas Hooker, Brigid Sullivan, Peter Perrino.

1. Chair called the hearing to order at 5.00pm.

2 Chair undertook a roll call of members of the Board present and swore them in. Chair swore in Mr Hooker.

3. Chair outlined the request by Mr Hooker for abatement of taxes on the property at 2380 Rte 103 N. This is a follow up to a request made on 10th September which was declined since the taxes were not at that time delinquent and a lawsuit was still pending. The request is for abatement of taxes for 2025. Chair outlined Mr Hooker's ownership history of the property acquired in a tax sale, and the subsequent lawsuit by the previous owner challenging the sale which limited Mr Hooker's access to the property and imposed legal and insurance costs on him. The specific rationale for the request is inability to pay. Chair invited Mr Hooker to speak.

4. Mr Hooker thanked the Board for hearing his request. Mr Hooker has now moved into the property, although the former owner is appealing the judgement which found in Mr Hooker's favor. Mr Hooker is working to make the property habitable and submitted photographic evidence of the work done to address issues caused by lack of occupancy, in particular mold and rodent mitigation, as well as dealing with vehicles left by the previous owner. Since the lawsuit has been appealed he cannot get a bank loan to fund improvements which has created a heavy financial burden on him. Mr Hooker asked for a reprieve based on the fact that he could not occupy the house for most of the last year because of the lawsuit.

5. Chair clarified that the previous decision included waiving of the penalties, but declined to agree an abatement because at that time the taxes were not delinquent.

6. Chair thanked Mr Hooker and noted that the Board will respond within 10 days.

7. Adjournment: 5.20 pm