

**Town of Pawlet**  
**Board for the Abatement of Taxes**  
**July 16, 2019**

Members Present: Chuck Weeden, Sue LaPorte, John Malcolm, Deb Hawkins-Clerk, Karen Folger, Ed Cleveland, Sally Cleveland, Eric Mach, Julie Mach, Robert Jones, Mike Beecher

Others Present: Jay Luebke-PEG-TV, Dolores Luebke, Tom Collard, Daniel Banyai, Rebecca Banyai, Dennis Haskins (Wells), Tom Collard, Rebecca Banyai, Kristin Powers

541 Briar Hill Rd.

0010-0541

C.T.O.

6:30 PM by John Malcolm

Reading of the Warning by John Malcolm, chair and confirmation that there was a quorum of the board in attendance.

Rebecca Banyai recused herself from participating as a board member.

Rebecca Banyai indicated concerns that the entire selectboard has a conflict of interest with Mr. Banyai.

Daniel Banyai sited comments made at previous meetings.

John Malcolm mentioned that in a small community it is difficult to avoid conflicts at all time.

Daniel Banyai wants a fair evaluation of his rights and feels that there is prejudice. If there is no quorum then we need to take it to a court hearing.

Eric Mach we are here with a quorum and we are non-biased.

Julie Mach described the definition of conflict of interest.

Daniel Banyai mentioned that the town is responsible for mailing a tax bill to him and last year it was not. It was mailed to a previous residence. Came in and presented Deb Hawkins the change of address and registered to vote.

It was established and agreed upon that at the time Mr. Banyai registered to vote, the change of address was submitted to Judy Coolidge who hand wrote the address on the already printed bill and hand wrote a mailing envelope with the new address of 541 Briar Hill Rd.

Julie Mach asked which reason for abatement was Mr. Banyai citing as the basis of the request as listed in the Vermont Statutes.

Daniel Banyai stated #4, manifest error.

John asked Mr. Banyai how long he owned property.

Daniel Banyai responded, since 2011.

Julie Mach – stated: the town tax collector shall at least 30 days prior send a notice to the last known address. She reached out to Mrs. Coolidge. An address change had not been submitted prior to April 1st. Mrs. Coolidge recalls hand writing an envelope with the bill in it to Mr. Banyai.

Daniel Banyai indicated that a previous year's tax bill said 541 Briar Hill Rd. The last tax bill just paid had old New York (Hyde Park) address on it.

Julie Mach produced the most current tax bill which stated the address had been crossed out and changed to 541 Briar Hill Rd.

Daniel Banyai said the year before had the address had 541 Briar Hill Rd.

The issue of the voter registration and address change was brought up again and discussed.

John Malcolm asked Mr. Banyai how much was being asked to be abated?

Daniel Banyai believed about \$299 in total. Felt that a a mistake was made and he is being penalized.

Karen Folger expressed some confusion about what year was being discussed. Asked for clarification.

Julie Mach – 2018-2019 tax year.

Daniel Banyai stressed again that he came in and wanted his address changed.

Deb Hawkins announced that after hearing from Mr. Banyai the the proper procedure was to go into deliberative session.

Eric Mach added that the board does equal right and justice to everyone.

Eric Mach made a motion seconded by Julie Mach to go into deliberation at 6:57 PM

Out of deliberation at 7:20 PM

It is the decision of the Board for the Abatement of taxes to deny Mr. Daniel Banyai's request to abate the balance of his taxes for the 2018-2019 tax year based on VSA 32 §4772 whereby the "tax collector shall, at least 30 days prior to the date fixed for the payment of taxes by vote of the municipality, mail to each taxpayer at his or her last known address a notice stating the amount of his or her grand list, the tax rate, the amount of taxes due from him or her and when the same are payable..." The board determined that the bill was sent out as per statute. Additionally the board referenced and reviewed case studies provided by the State of Vermont which support this decision.

7:25 meeting adjourned