

Town of Londonderry
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Minutes of the Board of Abatement

The Board of Abatement met on the 17th day of January, 2017 at 6:30pm at the Twitchell Building, 100 Old School Street in South Londonderry.

In attendance: Debbie O'Leary, Margaret Dawedeit, Geof Long, Bill Wylie, Kelly Pajala, Will Reed, Steve Prouty, Tina Labeau, Paul Gordon, James Twitchell, Leney Barclay

The Applicant was not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm.

Nominations for a chair of the board of Abatement were opened. Steve Prouty nominated Kelly Pajala. Tina Labeau seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed. Kelly Pajala was unanimously elected Chair of the Board of Abatement.

Since there wasn't anyone present to represent the property owner, the Information form for Tax Abatement Appeals provided by the Applicant was read aloud in its entirety. See attachment 1

Discussion about the lack of detailed information was discussed. It was noted that the applicant did not specify which statute they felt should be used as a reason to grant an abatement. Since there was very limited information and no financial statements shared it was difficult to determine financial hardship which seemed to be the only potential statutory reason to grant this abatement. One member of the board suggested that the abatement be granted. Several board members felt that since the tax bills are mailed at the end of July, tax payers have ample time to prepare for making a timely payment regardless of personal circumstances. It was noted that there has never been an abatement of taxes, interest or penalty granted without sufficient documentation of financial hardship or other statutorily allowed criteria.

Bill Wylie made a motion to deny the requested abatement because of a lack of sufficient information to determine a real hardship and to avoid setting a precedent. Will Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed by a majority voice vote. The abatement is denied.

Tina Labeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Prouty seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.