

Town of Londonderry
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Minutes of Board of Abatement Hearing

The Board of Abatement met on the 9th day of September 2019 at the Twitchell Building, 100 Old School Street in South Londonderry to hear an appeal for tax abatement for Gary Longley. Board members in attendance were Kelly Pajala (Clerk), Tina Labeau, Sandra Clark, Margaret Dawedeit, Kathrin Stone, Jim Ameden, Georgianne Mora, Debbie O’Leary and Jim Twitchell. The Appellant, Gary Longley, was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 by the Clerk. The Clerk briefly described the order of the proceedings. Before conducting the hearing, the members of the Board of Abatement were sworn in for the year of 2019. The Clerk opened nominations for Chair of the Board. Sandra Clark nominated Kelly Pajala. George Mora seconded the nomination. Hearing no further nominations, the nominations were closed. The Board of Abatement voted to have Kelly Pajala act as Chair for the duration of 2019.

The hearing proceeded. Gary Longley spoke about the circumstances around the significant damage to his house. He stated the following facts: on September 20, 2018 Ralph Rawson drove his car into the front corner of his house, knocking the front part of the house off the foundation. The front 1/3 of the house was uninhabitable and the foundation could not be repaired because of its proximity to the road. The front 1/3 of the house and the foundation were removed and a barrier was put up so Mr. Longley could live in the remaining 2/3 of the house. Repair work to rebuild on the footprint of the original foundation began on April 25, 2019 and is currently 80% complete. The damaged area was originally living space but is being rebuilt as a garage. It was estimated that the damaged area was roughly 900 square feet. It was pointed out that the informational form Mr. Longley filled out had some spaces left blank and some inconsistent information. The Lister card was passed around for everyone to see a picture of the original house and see the information about the property to verify and correct information on the Abatement Appeal form. The following information was filled in and corrected: the SPAN number 357-110-10895 was filled in, the total assessed value was corrected to read \$179,900.00. Tina asked if Mr. Longley to verify that he was asking for an abatement of 2018 taxes. He said that he was. Tina pointed out that the “total taxes paid in the year(s) you are requesting abatement” field was not the correct amount for the 2018 taxes. The correct amount was said to be \$3181.53 so that information was corrected on the Abatement appeal form as well. Mr. Longley stated that he had shared all the relevant information he wanted to share, and the Board agreed they had no further question. The Board thanked Mr. Longley for his time and closed the testimonial portion of the hearing.

The Board went into deliberative session. One of the members of the Board left the meeting and a voting quorum was no longer present so at 6:20 the board kept deliberations open but left with an agreement to gather on Monday September 16th at 4:30 to continue deliberations and come to a decision.

The Board reconvened at 4:50 on September 16, 2019 to continue deliberations. The Board came out of deliberative session. Georgianne Mora made a motion to grant an abatement in the amount of \$726.73 for the 2018 tax year to Gary Longley. Katherin Stone seconded the motion. The board passed the motion by a voice vote.

Tina Labeau made a motion to adjourn at 5:02. Jim Ameden seconded the motion. The board voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Pajala
Town Clerk