Board of Abatement
MEETING MINUTES

Special Meeting

Wednesday, July 29, 2026, *(immediately followed the BCA Hearing)*

Community Room, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468

In Person and/or Via Zoom

Members Present: Charles Barsalow, JP; Kristin Beers, Clerk; Steve Burke, JP; John Gifford, Treasurer; Mary Ann Duffy Godin, JP; Reginald Godin, JP; Denise Hughes, JP; Jon Hughes, Chair; Wendell Noble, JP; Lonnie Poland, JP; Brenda Steady, JP; Kary Towne, JP

Members Absent: Darren Adams, Selectboard Member; Diane Barrows, Selectboard Member; Jean Anne Branch, JP; Edgar Clodfelter, Assessor; Kevin Endres, JP; Leland Morgan, JP & Selectboard Member; Michael Morgan, JP & Selectboard Member; Betsy Paret, Selectboard Member; Robin Woods-Brisson, JP

Others Present: Adam Manor, Richard Desouza, Jen Murray

I. Call to Order

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order by Jon Hughes at 6:30 PM.

II. Public Forum

None.

III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2026

Lonnie Poland made a motion to approve the BOA minutes from the June 22, 2026 meeting, with a second by Denise Hughes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. To act on the abatements as received and presented by the Delinquent Tax Collector / Town Treasurer

John Gifford presented two proposed abatements in the following order:

a) Small balance "housekeeping" items (tax balances less than $10.00):

   i) **Denise Hughes made a motion to abate the taxes of the five accounts with low balances for a total of $13.64. Brenda Steady seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

b) Tax penalty and interest at 288 North Road:

   i) John Gifford explained that Husky's tax payment was received late and reminded the board that in March, Milton voters agreed that tax payments must be received by 5:00 PM on the due date. The 8% late fee applied to this account was $15,237.10, with interest for two months in the amount of $304.74. The way the tax accounting system works, the tax payment received on May 20th was applied to penalty and interest first, leaving a delinquent tax balance of $15,541.84.

ii) Husky's representative Richard Desouza introduced himself and Adam Manor, the maintenance and facility manager. Richard has been with Husky for about 32 years, having designed, built and staffed the Milton plant, working there since 1998. Adam has been with Husky for about 5 years.

iii) Richard explained that people make mistakes and that one particular individual made a lot of mistakes and is no longer working at Husky. He summarized the content of the letter submitted, pointing out that Husky has a history of paying taxes on time, makes many donations and contributions to the town and local charities, employs about 60 Milton residents and is in discussion with VSA and VT Gas about future projects in Milton. He will need to convince the Husky owners to approve future donations and projects in Milton, so it is in everyone's best interest to resolve this issue.

iv) There was a discussion about the next steps in the meeting procedure, and it was clarified that the applicants can either wait in the lobby while the board deliberates or they can leave. They will be issued a written decision either way.

v) Adam Manor elaborated that Husky is a huge company and the accounts payable department is located in Canada. The accounts payable employee left unannounced, and the AP manager didn't catch that this tax payment was still pending. Husky tends to pay the last week of the May due date. Adam acknowledged that they didn't pay on time, but it was only 3 days late and for all Husky does for the community, he asked for the community's help. This was a circumstance difficult to foresee and outside of their control.

vi) It was asked what date that employee walked out. Adam answered they walked out between May 13th and 14th. There was a question about how much the interest charge was and John Gifford answered $304.74. There was another question about how the payment was received, and it was a mailed check.

vii) The board entered deliberative session at 6:50 PM, discussed the evidence and testimony presented, and returned at 7:49 PM.

viii) **Brenda Steady made a motion to abate $15,237.10 that was applied to Husky's account on 5/18 due to abatement policy #10; sewer, water, utility, or service charges caused by circumstances that were difficult to foresee or outside of the person's control, in this case a business's control, however she did believe Husky should pay the interest of $304.74. Denise Hughes seconded, and after a divided vote there was a call for division. Jon asked all those in favor and opposed to please stand. The vote ended up 3 in favor and 8 opposed. As chair, Jon abstained. This motion failed.**

ix) **Lonnie Poland made a motion to abate the $304.74 of interest charged, with a second by Kristin Beers. Again, after a divided vote, there was a call for division. Jon asked all those in favor and opposed to please stand. The vote ended up 3 in favor and 8 opposed. As chair, Jon abstained. This motion failed.**

x) There were no more motions. For lack of motion, the abatement request was denied.

V. Other Business

None.

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VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 PM by Brenda Steady, with a second by Denise Hughes. The motion passed unanimously.

All documents pertaining to this meeting may be viewed using the following link:
https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/IgA9AShiQw_gRIiEverq4FRUAWeqyzwg0OZm8W_PW7xNjf8?e=0KdvFm

A video recording of this meeting can be found at the following location:
https://miltonvt.gov/AgendaCenter

Minutes recorded and submitted by Kristin Beers, Town Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:	Chair	Date
ATTEST:	Milton Town Clerk	Filed this day with the Milton Town Clerk's Office.

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