Town of Panton Chartered 1761

3176 Jersey Street • Panton, VT 05491-9331
Ph: 802.475.2333 • Fax: 802.475.2785

www.pantonvt.us

Board of Abatement Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 26th, 2026

In Attendance: Selectboard Members-Teresa Boucher, Robert DeGraaf, Kirsten De La Cruz-Clerk/Treasurer Kyle Rowe-Justices of the Peace-Paula Moore, Gretchen Bailey, Eileen Brenna-Panton Assessor-Alyth Hescock-Mary Allen, and Thomas Saltus

Via zoom: Selectboard Member Reece Jaring

1. Teresa called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda
3. Kyle administered the Oath to the Board of Abatement (BoA), and to the applicant and Thomas Saltus
4. Teresa asked for Mary to provide background and present her case;
    a. Mary stated that is was pretty simple-She owns 21 Acres of land and a dwelling, and she has been taxed on 32 acres of land and a dwelling for decades.
    b. Teresa asked when the change had occurred, the C/T stated 1993.
    c. Thomas Saltus stated that the maps online show the difference;
        i. The C/T explained how that information is calculated, and that the information is drawn from the Town and state records available online.
    d. It was noted that this issue arose both as Mary Allen was trying to sell a portion of her land, and got a survey as part of that process, and when the C/T conducted an analysis of the Grand List and Tax Map records to identify discrepancies in the records.
    e. Paula asked about the date on the lister card, which was 2022.
        i. Mary stated that her parents owned the property before her, and that she inherited the property in 2003.
        ii. The C/T added that the 2022 date was reflective of a trust sale, but was the last prior action, which usually appears on the lister card.
    f. Thomas Saltus asked how this issue could have gone on so long;
        i. The C/T described the process by which tax maps are created, and the data used. It was noted that the these types of issues aren't usually caught until a sale happens, unless an investigation into the discrepancies happens.
    g. Teresa asked when Mary noticed the discrepancy?
        i. Mary stated she noticed this year.
        ii. Teresa added that she would like to see this made right.

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h. It was generally noted that this was a complicated issue for the BoA, and it was further noted that the Town Clerk and Assessor have already fixed this issue going forward.
i. Eileen asked about the deeded acreage, and Kirsten asked if anyone had ever looked at the deed?
    i. Mary stated that when you get a bill, you pay it, and that she wasn't going to research it.
j. Paula asked if Mary thought she had 32 acres all these years?
    i. Mary stated yes, she did.
k. Paula added that abatement doesn't necessarily mean prior year taxes, but that the BoA has a lot of leeway to handle these issues, and she asked if Mary had anything else to share?
    i. Mary stated no, she thought the issue was straightforward.
l. Thomas Saltus asked if there was an appeal process?
    i. The C/T stated yes, Rule 75 of the Civil Court.
m. Eileen made a motion to enter executive session at 5:47 p.m., Teresa seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**

5. Paula made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:38p.m., Robert seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**

6. The C/T stated that the Board's Decision would be made in writing no later than 30 days from today, the 26th of March, 2026.

7. Robert made a motion to adjourn at 6:39 p.m., Eileen seconded-**VOTE-ALL IN FAVOR**

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