Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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PANTON BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES
November 18, 2026

Present: Robert deGraaf, Selectboard member; Teresa Boucher, Selectboard Vice-Chair; Paula Moore, Justice of the Peace; Gretchen Bailey, Justice of the Peace; Eileen Brennan, Justice of the Peace; Jamie Dayton, DRB/PC chair; Kyle Rowe, Assistant Treasurer (non-voting participant); Donna Oliver, Interim Town Clerk, scribe; Robert and Nina Morris
Via Zoom: Alyth Hescock, assessor

1. Teresa called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.
2. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.
3. Approval of the minutes of the March 26, 2026 meeting was tabled.
4. There was no public comment.
5. The Board took up the request of Robert and Nina Morris for abatement of the penalty assessed on their property tax bill in the amount of $295.58.
6. Robert and Nina were sworn in to tell the truth for the hearing.
7. a. Nina explained she has used Turbo Tax to do her taxes for years but never had a problem. She filed her 2025 taxes early on February 10, 2026 and paid Turbo Tax for both federal and state tax preparation. She has a receipt for payment dated February 21, 2026. She received confirmation that her federal taxes were accepted but did not receive notification about her state taxes. She contacted Turbo Tax. They explained that some states had problems processing taxes, Vermont being one of them. She did not hear there were any problems until she received a revised tax bill from the town which included a late homestead declaration charge.
   b. Alyth reviewed his documentation and stated that they filed on February 10, but that their homestead declaration was not added to our grand list until August 31. He could not explain why there was such a delay in the processing. He said the landowner filed in good faith, but due to a software glitch or human error their homestead declaration was submitted late.
   c. Robert and Nina were excused from the meeting after telling them that they would hear the boards decision within two weeks.
   d. Teresa made a motion to go into executive session at 6:42 p.m. Eileen seconded. ALL IN FAVOR

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e. Paula made a motion to exit executive session at 6:44 p.m. Seconded by Teresa. ALL IN FAVOR
f. Action was taken in executive session. Paula made a motion to the late homestead filing penalty on Robert and Nina Morris' property.; Jamie seconded. ALL IN FAVOR
g. Robert made a motion to adjourn at 6:46 p.m.; Eileen seconded. ALL IN FAVOR

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Oliver
Interim Town Clerk