

**SHREWSBURY BOARD OF ABATEMENT
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Shrewsbury Board of Abatement convened at 6:00 P.M. pm on August 18, 2026 in person.

IN ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved with 8 out of 12 members present. Justices of the Peace – Barry Griffith, Patricia Norton, Betsy Jesser, Robert Ferguson, Sr., Selectboard members, Aaron Korzun and Marc Cimonetti, Town Clerk, Rebecca Rice, and Town Treasurer, Linda McGuire.
Also in attendance in person: Emily Fredette and Michael Geary.

1. CALLED TO ORDER at 6:17 by Barry Griffith, Chairman.

2. Mercedes Gaylord Request for Abatement of Taxes for 2024 and 2025 for property located at 2115 Upper Cold River Road, Parcel ID No. 006-0-2115

The Chair read the property location and parcel id of the requested hearing. The Applicant was not in attendance. The Chairman read the statement included with the application. The request for abatement was based on financial hardship. The Town Clerk noted that she had called the applicant twice (August 12 and August 14) and had left messages for the applicant. She also emailed the applicant twice (August 13 and August 14) and had hand delivered the Notice of Hearing to Applicant's mailbox on August 14. She received no responses from the Applicant. The Treasurer provided the Board with a breakdown of taxes owed and what had been paid. As Applicant was not present, no additional facts could be gathered. The hearing was closed until it was discussed in executive session. No conflicts of interest or ex parte communication was declared.

3. Emily Fredette and Michael Geary request for Abatement of Taxes for 2024 and 2026 for property, located at 413 Wilderness Road, Parcel ID No. 039-0-0413.

The Board heard the request by Emily Fredette and Michael Geary for an abatement of at least a portion of the taxes and penalty owed for 2024 and 2025 due to their inability to pay. The Applicants were sworn in. No conflicts of interest or ex parte communication was declared. Applicants had provided some of their financial information to the Town Clerk prior to the hearing, which had been provided to the Board. Copies of the application and the financial information were also provided at the meeting. Linda McGuire provided statements as to the current taxes owed.

The Applicants had acquired title to the property in May 2024 after significant litigation. During the summer of 2024, Emily Fredette required a laminectomy. This required significant time off from work. In 2025 she broke her ankle which also required unpaid time off from work. In November 2025, Michael Geary lost his job at Killington. Ms. Fredette continues to work at Planned Parenthood. The Applicants have four children ranging in age from 4 to 14. During the winter of 2026 Mr. Geary started working part-time for the Town of Shrewsbury as a transfer station attendant. In May 2026, Mr. Geary suffered an aneurism and Ms. Fredette was required to take time off from work to care for him. She then had an additional surgery in July 2026. She returned to work on August 17, 2026.

Ms. Fredette testified that they had been paying the rent to be applied to taxes to the Valentins, the parties who claimed to hold title to the property throughout the litigation, until title was transferred to Ms. Fredette and Mr. Geary in May 2024. The 2024 taxes bill was sent to the Valentins. It included taxes based on a 6 acre parcel. Applicants had only been conveyed 4.1 acres. Ms. Fredette testified that she was unaware of the unpaid 2024 taxes until recently. Ms. Fredette and Mr. Geary have made some payments on the taxes since they have owned the property.

3. The Board entered deliberative session at 7:15 pm. Returned to regular session at 7:45 pm.

Motion to Adjourn made by Rebecca Rice, seconded by Aaron Korzun. Adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Town Clerk, Rebecca Rice to write the decision for the Chair's signature

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF, THESE MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND OFFICIAL RECORD OF ALL ACTION TAKEN AT THE BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING HELD AUGUST 18, 2026.

ATTEST:



DATE: AUGUST 19, 2026