

Town of Springfield - Board of Abatement

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 5:35pm Minutes

Board of Civil Authority Members Present:

Ernest Lamphere

Chuck Gregory

Mark Greenvall

Kathleen Stankevich

David Yesman

Scott Farr

Char Osterlund

Stephen Matush

Rick Hunter

Melissa MacKenzie

Peter MacGillivray

Michael Martin

Walter Martone

Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk

Others:

Maxine Aldrich, Assistant Town Clerk

Nichole Knight, Assessor

After the quorum being met, the meeting of the Board of Abatement was called to order at 5:35pm by Chairperson Ernest Lamphere. Barbara Courchesne then swore in the Board.

1. Additions to Agenda

None.

2. Requests for Tax Abatement

Timber Works Holding, LLC – 16 Fairbanks Road

Appellant, Daniel Kelleher, CEO of Vermont Timber Works, was sworn in by Clerk, and he confirmed he received the rules of procedure. Assessor Nichole Knight was sworn in by Clerk. Copies of Appellant's abatement request under "Reason No. 5" (24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(5)), letter and tax bill, were distributed to all parties. Chairperson Lamphere asked the Appellant for testimony.

Mr. Kelleher confirmed they lost the building to the fire and haven't been able to conduct business as usual. Nichole Knight confirmed the fire on September 21, 2019. She confirmed there were outbuildings not affected by the fire and the land not affected by the fire so the total value on the property after the fire is \$121,200. The building was a total loss so she removed that value of \$365,200.

Barbara Courchesne read the cover sheet of the abatement request and explained the calculation of the abatement amount.

MOTION: David Yesman moved to grant Timber Works Holding abatement of \$10,073.03 under Reason 5. Mark Greenvall seconded motion. Discussion ensued. Motion passed.

Lacasse Irrevocable Trust – 47 Trombly Road

Appellants were not present. Jeremy Lacasse was present as an observer only. Copies of Appellant's abatement request under "Reason No. 5" (24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(5)), letter and tax bill were distributed to all parties. Chairperson Lamphere read Appellant's letter. Nichole Knight confirmed the house is gone, the cellar hole is being filled in, and the outbuilding is still there. Barbara Courchesne stated that Nichole Knight was previously sworn in and requested that stand for all hearings. Barbara Courchesne also stated she received correspondence from Appellant requesting any abatement granted be applied to fourth quarter taxes.

MOTION: Scott Farr moved to abate \$471.91. Rick Hunter seconded motion. Scott Farr amended motion to include Reason 5; Rick Hunter confirmed second. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Town of Springfield – 9-13 Main Street (known as Bakery Building)

Copies of abatement request under "Reason No. 4" (24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(4)), Town Manager, Tom Yennerell's email request for abatement, delinquent tax report and delinquent water and sewer report were distributed to all parties. Nichole Knight explained the town took possession of the building in the 2016-17 tax year so there is an outstanding balance to be abated because it was a non-taxable property. Barbara Courchesne confirmed delinquent taxes and delinquent water and sewer.

MOTION: David Yesman moved to abate taxes for \$2,782.81 and water and sewer for \$153.91, for total of \$2,936.72, under Reason 4. Mark Greenvall seconded motion. No further discussion. Motion passed. Peter MacGillivray abstained.

Town of Springfield – 10 Slack Avenue

Copies of Clerk's abatement request under "Reason No. 4" (24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(4)) and delinquent tax report were distributed to all parties. Nichole Knight stated Reason 4 is the only one that applies although it is not an error. She confirmed the town got the property at tax sale for the tax year 2016-17 and just recently sold it. When the town owns the property, it is no longer taxable. David Yesman asked if the building was still standing. Nichole Knight confirmed it is and the town sold it in June 2019 for \$5,000.

MOTION: Peter MacGillivray moved to abate taxes for \$8,818.89 on 10 Slack Avenue under Reason 4. Kathleen Stankevich seconded motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Leander T. Losee and Natasha D. Palowski – 242 Town Farm Road Lot 27

Copies of Clerk's abatement request under "Reason No. 5" (24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(5)) and delinquent tax report were distributed to all parties. Nichole Knight explained the town

was going to acquire at tax sale, the mobile home park was taking possession and tearing it down. The mobile home is gone and should be removed from the grand list.

MOTION: Chuck Gregory moved to abate taxes in the amount of \$1,204.55 for property at 242 Town Farm Road Lot 27 under Reason 5. David Yesman seconded motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Peter MacGillivray moved to adjourn. David Yesman seconded motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maxine M. Aldrich".

Maxine M. Aldrich
Assistant Town Clerk