

Board of Abatement

12/15/20

Board Present: Jared Cadwell, (Jared), Chuck Martel (Chuck), Sarah Stavraký (Sarah), Doug Mosle (Doug), Rick Rayfield (Rick), Patti Lewis (Patti), Lisa Koitzsch (Lisa), and Mike Jordan (Mike)

Guests Present: Betty McCaffrey

Jared called the hearing to order at 1:05p.m.

Appellant Present: Gael Jacobson - Parcel ID# 02-023

1. Parcel ID#02-023 Gael Jacobson

Jared introduced the Board of Abatement (BOA) Members and asked if any Board Member had a conflict of interest in hearing this case. Patti recused herself as she is also Delinquent Tax Collector.

Jared administered the oath to Gael Jacobson (Gael). He asked if she had received the Rules of Procedure and the list of abatement criteria under the State statute (Title 24, V.S.A. 1535). He asked her under which criteria her request for abatement fell. Gael did not recall receiving this packet of information.

While Patti resent the information via email, Jared explained the process of the hearing and the fact that Gael would be notified within 30 days of the BOA decision after deliberative session today.

Jared read the seven criteria under which the BOA may consider abatement requests. After listening, Gael said she did not believe her request falls under any of those criteria.

The BOA requested that Gael explain her situation nonetheless. She said the tax bill had gone to 4517 Center Fayston Road, hat she has not lived there in years (her daughter does), and that her daughter had not brought the bill to her attention until after 11/1/2020. Gael has since paid the whole bill in order to stop additional interest charges. She is seeking relief from the penalty assessed in November. Gael was asked if she had a new address the Town should be using to mail her the property tax bill. Gael replied that she will let the Town know if a new address becomes permanent for her.

BOA thanked Gael for her presence.

2. Deliberative Session

1:20 p.m. – Lisa made a motion to go into deliberative session. Rick seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

1:25 p.m. – Jared made a motion to close deliberative session. Sarah seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Action Taken:

Jared made a motion to deny Gael's request for abatement as there is no statutory basis that would allow the BOA to grant her request. Rick seconded.

Sarah made a motion to amend the motion to include reversal of the December interest of \$86.48 due to the timing between Gael's initial request and the BOA hearing/decision. Chuck seconded. All in favor, no further discussion, amendment carried.

Jared reread the main motion to deny Gael's request for abatement as there is no statutory basis that would allow the BOA to grant her request, and to reverse December interest of \$86.48 due to timing between the initial request and the BOA hearing/decision. All in favor, no further discussion, motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes of 12/1/20 and 12/9/20

Jared moved to approve Minutes/Decisions of 12/1/20 and 12/9/20. Chuck seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

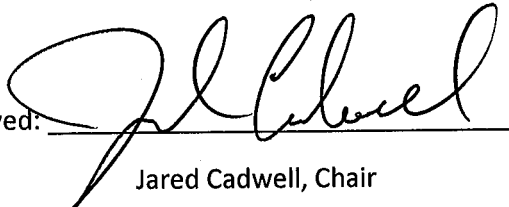
4. Other Business

Lisa suggested that informing the appellant about the statutory rules for BOA decisions should be made clearer to appellants when they request a BOA hearing. After discussion, Sarah agreed to create a form that will be sent out to anyone requesting an abatement hearing to make sure their request falls under the State criteria.

1:38 p.m. – Lisa made a motion to adjourn. Chuck seconded. No further discussion, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patti Lewis

Approved: 
Jared Cadwell, Chair

Date: 12.24.20