

**Minutes of Board of Abatement Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2017**

Board of Abatement Present:

Jared Cadwell (Jared), Chuck Martel (Chuck), Tom Bisbee (Tom), Patti Lewis (Patti), Peter Forbes (Peter), Rick Rayfield (Rick), Ed Read (Ed), Sarah Stavraký (Sarah) and Doug Mosle (Doug). (Board)

Guests Present: Steve Zonies (Steve) – Parcel ID #06-044

Jared called the Board of Abatement meeting to order on 1/9/17 at 9:00 a.m. He introduced the Board, noted that Patti would recuse herself from the vote as Delinquent Tax Collector, asked if Steve had received the Rules of Procedure, which he had, and administered the oath to Steve.

Jared further explained that Steve was here to ask for abatement of taxes and to present his case, the Board would then be able to ask questions, move into deliberative session, and render a decision within thirty (30) days.

Steve thanked the Board for meeting with him. He had researched Statute 1537 and 1535 and doubted his grievance falls under any of the nine criterion listed. Instead he suggested the Board add a 10th to include circumstances beyond the taxpayer control or bank error, omission, oversight, or inadequate due diligence.

He explained he wrote and mailed the property tax check on time. It was deposited by the Town in a timely manner. It was marked insufficient funds (ISF) by Northfield Savings Bank (NSB) on 10/31/16. He has been a customer of NSB for forty years, has overdraft protection on his accounts, and has activated that in the past. This time the check bounced. After writing the check he went on vacation for two weeks. NSB told Steve they had reached out to him when the check bounced but were unable to reach him. According to the NSB letter dated 1/4/17, attached herewith, there were funds available in another account had they been able to reach Steve. When Steve received the delinquent tax notice from the Town (12/2016) he immediately addressed the situation but was unaware up to that point that taxes had not been paid. He had received a notice from the bank but it looked similar to his overdraft notices and he did not pay attention nor does he reconcile his checkbook on a regular basis. Ed noted that it was common for NSB to make those calls to customers regarding overdrafts, not as a matter of policy but rather courtesy. Also noted was that automatic overdraft protection for personal accounts is up to \$500 and a business account up to \$1000.00 and that banks do not like to transfer funds between business and personal accounts without permission. Jared and Steve clarified that Steve was not asking for abatement of taxes but rather the interest and penalty in the amount of \$721.69.

9:22 a.m. – Jared made a motion to go in to deliberative session. Chuck seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

9:45 a.m. – Ed made a motion to close deliberative session. Chuck seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.