

Board of Abatement
Bennington, VT

Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2021

Members Present: Cassie Barbeau, Barbara Bluto, Kate Canning, Jeanne Conner, Peter Green, Jeannie Jenkins, Jackie Kelly, Albert Krawczyk, Bruce Lee-Clark, Brian Maroney, Jr., Jim Marsden, Anne Mook, Joan Pinsonneault, Marjorie Robinson, David Shaffe and Kayla Thompson

Also Present: John Antognioni, Chief Assessor

Purpose of Meeting: To hear annual requests for abatement of taxes

**Meeting was called to order by Jim Marsden, acting chair, at 5:00 PM. He explained, due to the absence of David Shaffe last year, he was elected chair and resigns his position.

**Cassie made the motion to elect David Shaffe as Board of Abatement Chair, seconded by Jim Marsden, motion passed unanimously.

**Cassie circulated the Oath of office for signatures.

**George Krawczyk, property at 311 Rice Lane and 434 Main Street:

**Albert Krawczyk stated he will recuse himself from this abatement request.

Abatement is requested on inability to pay. Mr. Krawczyk indicates he is attempting to file bankruptcy; however, the courts aren't open right now due to COVID. He provided details as to his income, current mortgages on the properties and rent being received. Taxes are owed for two years on both properties. No payments have been made since November 2019.

**Joan briefly explained to the Board how bankruptcy filing works with property taxes. Property taxes will still be owed and payable at some point, even if it is at eventual sale of any given property.

**Cassie noted the Board does not traditionally abate previous year taxes as the fiscal year has already been closed out.

**Joan Pinsonneault made the motion to deny the request for abatement, seconded by Jim Marsden, motion passed by majority with abstention.

**Estate of Henry Strohmaier, property at South Stream Road and Middle Pownal Road:

**Letter for abatement was submitted by Attorney James Dingley requesting abatement of penalty and interest on the 2020 taxes as there was no fiduciary appointed by the court at that time. There is currently a zero balance, nothing owed on either account.

**There was general discussion regarding potential family knowing when taxes are due and whether there could have at least been a timely payment made. Additionally, we do not traditionally abate previous year taxes, penalties and interest.

**Bruce Lee-Clark made the point that there may have been family disputes and the Courts were likely delayed still due to COVID.

**Barbara Bluto made the motion to deny the request for abatement, seconded by Anne Mook, motion passed unanimously.

**Joan Pinsonneault, Town Treasurer, presented the list of two mobile homes. One had been moved during the year and another had been taxed prior to the tax rate being set. Total abatement is \$227.35.

**Cassie made the motion to abate \$227.35, seconded by Barbara Bluto, motion passed unanimously.

**John Antognioni, Chief Assessor, presented request for abatement on the property of Gregory & Nancy Mann, 205 Foster Drive. The property was significantly damaged in a fire on July 2, 2021 and is uninhabitable. Taxes were paid in full by the Mann's on November 3, 2021. Adjusting the building value for the tax year would result in an abatement of \$793.55.

**Bruce Lee-Clark made the motion to abate \$793.55 plus interest, seconded by Anne Mook, motion passed unanimously.

**With no further business, Cassie made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Al Krawczyk, motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra Barbeau
Bennington Town Clerk