

TOWN OF CASTLETON
BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
APRIL 8, 2013 – 5:00PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Rosmus, Chair; Katy Thornblade, Clerk; Patricia Diercksen, Susan Farrow, John Hale, Jan Rousse, David Seguin, Tom Etori, Wenger Rehlen, Nancy Trudo, Kim Miller & Judi Forbes.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Ann Jakubowski, Secretary; Charles Jacien, Town Manager/Tax Collector

With a finally Quorum present, Chair Deb Rosmus called the Meeting to Order at 5:55 PM. Minutes for November 26, 2012 meeting had been read by those Members who had been present at that meeting. David Seguin moved to accept Minutes as read, Jan Rousse seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Chair Debbie Rosmus also explained that at the last meeting, the Board of Abatement voted to take the matter of abating municipal and/or educational taxes on a case-by-case basis.

Abatement Requests:

VALERIE DUCHARME #43-50-00036

Mary Ann Jakubowski explained that this property was destroyed by wind and trees in storm on Dec. 21, 2012 and presented the breakdown of tax abatements. Deb Rosmus asked if Mrs. Ducharme planned to rebuild. MAJ said yes.

David Seguin moved to abate all the taxes in the amount of \$73.11. Jan Rousse seconded. In discussion, Nancy Trudo reminded Board of the “rules” regarding education taxes, in that the Town still must pay the educational portion of any abated taxes. She is opposed to abating the education tax. MAJ asked if these amounts were not part of the years-end “true-up” and Nancy replied No.

Majority voted in favor of Motion. Nancy Trudo voted No. Motion passed. MAJ asked if this would be reflected on an adjusted bill. Board said Yes.

JEFFREY MARS #44-50-00010.T

Charles J. explained the facts. This loss was result of a fire at Route 30 property on January 23, 2013. 100% loss of the Mobile Home. John Hale moved to abate the full \$279.64, Susan Farrow seconded. Nancy Trudo opposed to abating education tax. Wenger Rehlen asked what happens next year. Nancy replied that MH has already been removed from the tax rolls. Majority voted in favor of Motion. Nancy Trudo opposed. Motion passed.

MICHAEL & CHERYL MORRIS #01-01-00005.1

Charles J. explained that this was another fire near Lilley Pond of a camp on December 17, 2012. Jan R. moved to abate the full \$53.11, David S. seconded. Majority voted in favor of Motion. Nancy T. opposed. Motion passed.

MICHAEL PELTIER #43-50-00028

Charles Jacien explained this was another fire involving an 80% loss of property, house, garage & apartments. John Hale moved to abate the full tax amount of \$1097.56 (representing 80% of assessed value of buildings), Pat Dierksen seconded.

Kim Miller asked if the property was being used? Audience member, Julie Finnegan, spoke on Peltiers' behalf (they had had to leave meeting) stating that they cannot allow tenants in. Mr. Peltier has no Certificate of Occupancy and cannot use it until the building is ready for tenants. Mr. Peltier has no Certificate of Occupancy and cannot use it until the building is ready for tenants.

Majority voted in favor of Motion. Nancy opposed. Motion passed.

GRANT & CONSTANCE WHITMER #10-01-00031

Deb Rosmus recused herself as her husband works with the Appellant. If no objection, she would continue to moderate.

Charles J explained this was another fire on February 12, 2012. The family submitted documentation indicating that the insurance company considered this a complete loss and paid the Whitmers accordingly. The fire dept assessed it as a 33% loss. MAJ has broken down the taxes for 2011/12 and 2012/13, with both 1/3 loss and 100% loss. The Listers said that Appellants never called them about the loss. Kim Miller stated that it is not the Town 's fault that they have not been able to sell.

After further discussion, Jan Rousse moved to abate 33% of the 2011/12 taxes. David Seguin seconded. Nancy Trudo opposed. Tom Etori agreed, as did others. Something was said about the fact that they were paid a large sum by the insurance company. At this point, John Burke in audience asked if all the other Appellants had been insured and paid. Katy T picked up on his point that, just because these tax payers may be well-off, it does not negate their right to abatement.

The vote was called. John Hale, Tom Etori, Kim Miller, Wenger Rehlen & Nancy Trudo voted NO to Motion. Katy, Jan Rouse, Judi Forbes, David Seguin, Susan Farrow & Pat Diercksen moved in favor. Motion passed.

Jan Rouse moved to abate 33% of 2012/13 taxes. Pat Diercksen seconded. Nancy Trudo said the second year should not be abated as the Whitmers never contacted the Listers. All voted against the Motion. Motion failed. There will be a credit to the Whitmans taxes for first abatement.

JOAN WRIGHT

#08-02-00010

MAJ explained the mistaken change in Mrs. Wright's residency status. Nancy T said that the State admitted its error. The record has been corrected. Jan R moved to abate the full \$139.08, John Hale seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

David Seguin moved to adjourn the Meeting. Susan Farrow seconded. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Katy Thornblade
Town Clerk

July 20th 2015
Date approved