TOWN OF CASTLETON BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2013 – 6:15PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Rosmus, Chair; Katy Thornblade, Clerk; Patricia Diercksen, Susan Farrow, John Hale, David Seguin, Tom Ettori, Frank Giannini, Lilian Sheren, Henry Stone, Edward O'Shea

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Ann Jakubowski, Secretary; Charles Jacien, Town Manager/Tax Collector; Karen & Robert Moore, Appellants.

With a Quorum finally present, Chair Deb Rosmus called the Meeting to Order at 6:45 PM. Due to lack of time, reading and approval of Minutes for April 8, 2013 Meeting was foregone.

Abatement Requests:

LaFOND'S AUTO BODY, INC

#24-20-00033.5

Mary Ann Jakubowski explained that LaFond's Auto Body purchased the home at 40 North David Avenue from Green Tree Servicing after property was foreclosed. On December 3, 2013 demolition of the house structure was completed and abatement requested for taxes on the structure. She offered figures for full tax abatement and those portions for municipal and educational taxes, indicating it is for the Board to decide how much to abate.

Karen Moore of LaFond's Auto Body explained the deplorable condition of the home, which had prompted neighbors to contact the Town Health Officer. The power had been shut off, but the house was still occupied with no facilities. It became an unsafe and unsanitary situation. \$3000 was spent by the Town to clean it up. The buyers knew the property could not be repaired and so tore it down.

To Frank Giannini who asked why the Board would not abate all the taxes, Chair Debbie Rosmus explained that the Town is still liable for the education portion of taxes so often only the municipal portion is abated. In some cases all taxes have been abated, when an accidental loss for example.

Tom Ettori moved to abate only the municipal portion of taxes in the amount of \$132.92. Seconded by Ed O'Shea. All voted in favor, except Frank Giannini who opposed. Motion passed. The figure will be a credit on their tax bill.

ALAN & BARBARA GUSTAFSON #20-20-00044

Mary Ann Jakubowski explained how the Gustafsons had torn down an old wooden cabin during 2012/13 tax year and are asking for an abatement on the 2013/14 tax bill. She provided a breakdown of municipal and educational portions of the taxes.

Tom Ettori moved to abate only the municipal portion of taxes in the amount of \$22.64. Seconded by David Seguin. All voted in favor, except Frank Giannini, who opposed. Motion passed.

NORMAN SPAFFORD #44-50-00047

Mary Ann Jakubowski explained that Mr. Spafford demolished the wooden portion of his building and has asked for abatement of his 2013/14 taxes. He does not plan to rebuild. She provided a breakdown of the municipal and educational taxes.

Tom Ettori moved to abate only the municipal portion of taxes in the amount of \$125.94. Ed O'Shea seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor, except Frank Giannini who opposed. Motion passed.

Tomo Ettori moved to Adjourn. David Seguin seconded. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Katy Thornblade Town Clerk

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Date approved