

TOWN OF CASTLETON
BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
JULY 20, 2015 6:15PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Rosmus, Nedra Boutwell, Bob Grace, Patricia Albin-Diercksen,, Lilian Sheren, Judi Forbes, Richard Combs, John Hale, Nancy Trudo, Scott Lobdell, James Leamy, Gerard Ashton, Joseph Bruno. Lois Witt and Janet Wilson also joined the meeting as the abatement for Welch started.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Ann Jakubowski, Secretary, JoAnn Riley, Holly Hitchcock, Charles Matteson, Pat Matteson, Samuel Gowan, Donald Thompson, Tom Kurns, Henry Stone, Emily Cutts-Rutland Herald

Meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Debbie R.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: ELECT A CHAIR

Joe B nominated Debbie R to serve as Chair, Scott L seconded the nomination. All voted in favor, motion passed. Joe B nominated the officers from the BCA the same for the BOA with Bob G as Vice Chair and Nedra B as Secretary, Scott L seconded. All voted in favor, motion passed.

Minutes from past meetings, April 8, 2013, December 9, 2013 and May 14, 2014, were read to be approved. John H made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Judi F seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: ABATEMENT REQUESTS

Bethel, Michael & Deborah # 080100023

Mary Ann J, explained that the Fire Department burned the house as a drill on August 24, 2014, the figures for abatement are, municipal tax \$253.68 and educational tax \$880.10 for a total of \$1133.78.

John H made a motion to abate both the Municipal and the Education Tax for a total \$1133.78, Judi F seconded. Discussion followed. Nancy T wanted to know how can you ask taxpayers to pay for the education portion when this was a planned fire not an accident. Richard C said the Bethels emptied the house to ready it for the drill and he thought they were out of their house for about 100 to 120 days. It was discussed that another house was put on the lot and if the Bethels had to pay to have the house demolished and hauled away it would have been costly. Chair Debbie R called for a vote, John H voted in favor, all others opposed. Gerard A made a motion to abate the municipal portion of \$253.68 as a tax credit. Jim L seconded. Chair Debbie R called the motion, all voted in favor, motion passed.

Welch, Alice: Fort Warren Trailer Park #05030040T-31

Mary Ann J explained this trailer was in the Fort Warren Trailer park, lot 31, and was removed from Castleton in September of 2013. It was not removed from the lister's system and a tax bill was created for 2014/15. The figures for abatement are \$378.94, \$338.04 in principal, \$27.04 in penalty and \$13.86 in interest.

Nancy T spoke that this was strictly a bookkeeping issue. Joe B made a motion to abate the total amount of \$378.94, seconded by Dick C. All voted in favor, motion passed.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: TAX EXEMPT ISSUE

Chair Debbie R explained that an oversight had occurred which caused the Grange, the Historical Society and the Senior Center to lose their tax exempt status on their property. All three organizations were represented and spoke about the necessity for their tax exemption so they could continue to provide for the community. There was much discussion with the listers and Lois W stated she was meeting with the State on Tuesday to seek clarification. Bob G made a motion to table matters as we cannot make a decision without additional information. Jim L seconded the motion. Discussed setting a date for a future meeting, it was decided we would meet again on August 3rd at 6:00pm after the listers had a chance to set the tax rate. No further discussion, Chair Debbie R called the motion, all voted in favor, motion passed.

Bob G moved to adjourn, Pat D seconded. All voted in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:03pm. (Audio tape malfunctioned and is not available for this meeting)

Respectfully submitted:

Nedra Boutwell

Nedra Boutwell, Clerk
July 23, 2015

Approved:

[Signature]

Date: February 2, 2016
