

Minutes of Meeting

COVENTRY BOARD OF ABATEMENT

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

5:30 p.m.

Coventry Town Office

168 Main St, Coventry, VT 05825

Board of Abatement Present:

Justices of the Peace: Donald Hunt (Chairman); Cheryl Carrier, Melissa Gallup, Richard Lussier, Anita Allen, Sherry Bradley

Not Present: John Miller

Town Select Board: Michael Marcotte, Scott Briere, David Gallup

Town Clerk: Deb Tanguay

Town Treasurer: David Barlow (Vice Chairman)

Public Guests: Donald Cotnoir, Michael Rogers

Other Town Officials: Kate Fletcher, Delinquent Tax Collector

1.) Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Deb at 5:33 PM after having noted a quorum of BOA members. {MG/RL} Deb noted a change to the agenda to add a Deliberative Session; as it may be needed in order to discuss the requests. There were no other additions or adjustments to the agenda. The Board of Abatement members signed in.

2.) BOA Re-Organization: Deb nominated Don Hunt as Chair for the Board. No other nominations were received, so Don Hunt was voted in as Chair for the next ensuing year. All were in favor. Deb nominated David Barlow as Vice-Chair for the Board. No other nominations were received, so David Barlow was voted in as Vice-Chair for the next ensuing year. There were no discussions and nominations were carried unanimously.

The Board of Abatement was sworn in by Town Clerk, Deb Tanguay. Members present signed the oath. The public guests requesting abatements were sworn in by Town Clerk, Deb Tanguay, regarding their respective testimonies. Public guests signed the oath. All oaths have been received and recorded with the Town Clerk.

3.) Approve Prior Minutes of Meeting: It was undeterminable when the last BOA held a meeting or if there were any prior minutes to be approved. Therefore, we did not approve any prior minutes.

4.) Resident Abatement Request – Donald Cotnoir: Discussions commenced regarding the abatement request of Donald Cotnoir on his tax amount and penalties & interest accrued. The Cotnoir's lost their home to a fire on Oct 7, 2017. At the time of the fire, the Cotnoir's did not notify the Town of the occurrence. He stated it was in the paper; however, it was noted by the BOA that any occurrence to the resident's properties should be notified to the Town by the resident. David B. asked if the Cotnoir's had gone to the Tax Grievance hearings last year to grieve the value of the home and Mr. Cotnoir stated no. Mr. Cotnoir stated he accrued late fees and penalties for not paying his taxes on time, as he was waiting for a response back from the Lister Office and did not receive the answer until after the due date for Taxes. Assessing Clerk, Kate Fletcher, provided Itemized Property Costs for Mr. Cotnoir's property. Prior to the fire, the last cost sheet update was performed on August 12, 2008. Kate informed the BOA that the newly appointed Assessor and Kate did go and re-evaluate the new home on May 28, 2019. The Board will take the request under consideration.

5.) Delinquent Tax Collectors Request – multiple properties: Discussions commenced regarding the abatement request of Kate Fletcher, in her position of Delinquent Tax Collector. Kate mentioned that many of the following individuals should have been remedied and removed prior years ago under the duties of the Listing Office. Many of the properties were unlanded mobile homes that were lost to fire, had owners who are now deceased, or timing of payments within the NEMRC accounting system. Either way, the collectability of these accounts is impossible and would cost the Town more money in postage and court costs. Below is a listing of the individuals that Kate brought to the board for abatement:

Nick Cote - \$933.17

Robert Gaudreau - \$1.70

Diana Guillette - \$11.80

Arlean Hillis Labounty - \$584.28

Frank Keeler - \$126.71

Gerard Petit, Jr - \$9.45

The Board will take the request under consideration.

6.) Other Requests ~ as presented: Kate presented a letter on behalf of Kathy Holbrook who could not attend the meeting. Kathy mailed her tax payment for Martha's Diner on Oct 22, 2018 and the Town did not receive the payment until after the tax due date. Discussion commenced regarding this request. During the discussion it was noted that the tax payment was mailed to an incorrect mailing address for the Town. It was also noted that tax bills and the information sheet mailed with the tax bills had the correct mailing address listed on it. The Board will take the request under consideration.

Michael Rogers presented a statement regarding an abatement request of his tax bill for November 2018. During discussions with the Assessing Clerk, Kate Fletcher, it was determined that his Land Use calculation was incorrectly classified on his tax bill; therefore, he paid more tax than what should have been required. He is requesting an abatement of \$134.93. Mr. Rogers wanted to thank Kate and let the Board know that he was appreciative for Kate taking time to assist with this matter. The Board will take the request under consideration.

7.) Public Comments: There were none.

8.) Deliberate Session: Don made a motion to enter deliberative session at 6:40 PM to discuss the requests received per 1 VSA § 312. {MM/RL}

The BOA came out of deliberative session at 6:55 PM with the following determinations:

- Donald Cotnoir – Based on the information presented, the BOA will table this decision in order to obtain additional information from the Assessing & Town Treasurer offices in order to make an accurate determination of his abatement request. The two offices will be in contact with Deb beginning of June 10th week. Upon receipt of information, Deb will reschedule a BOA meeting to review this information in order for the BOA to make a final determination.

- Delinquent Tax Collectors request – Based on the information presented, a motion was made to abate all properties that the Delinquent Tax Collector brought to the board for the amounts as presented. {MM/RL} There were no discussions and nominations were carried unanimously. Deb will send a letter to Kate indicating of the Boards approval of requests.

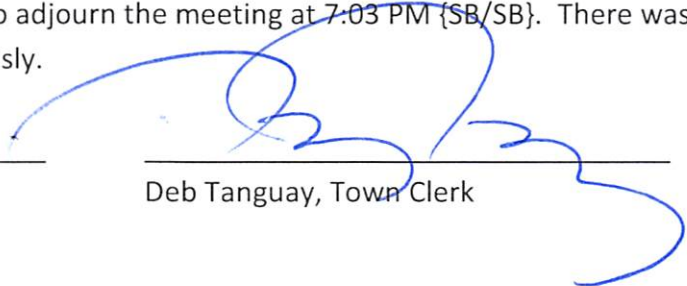
- Kathy Holbrook – Based on the information received, a motion was made to deny the abatement request. {DT/DB} There were no discussions and nominations were carried unanimously. Deb will send a letter to Kathy indicating of the Boards denial of request.

- Michael Rogers – Based on the information presented, an error was made by the Town with his Land Use calculation. A motion was made to abate his 2018 tax amount per his request of \$134.93. The Treasurer will calculate the payment and interest amount owed to Mr. Rogers. Deb will send a letter to Michael indicating of the Boards approval of request.

9.) Adjournment: There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM {SB/SB}. There was no discussion and motion carried unanimously.



Don Hunt
Chairman, Board of Abatement



Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk