

Board of Abatement
Bennington, VT

Minutes of Monday, December 10, 2018

Members Present: Cassie Barbeau, Susan Beal, Barbara Bluto, Jim Carroll, Jeanne Conner, Robert Ebert, Deborah Giroux, Jim Gulley, Michele Hogan, Jeannie Jenkins, Albert Krawczyk, Jim Marsden, Mary Morrissey, Joan Pinsonneault, Marjorie Robinson, David Shaffe and Anna Kinney Swierad.

Also Present: John Antognioni, Chief Assessor, Mike Munson and Bill Scully

** Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by David Shaffe.

** Cassie made the motion to elect David Shaffe as Board Chair, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed unanimously.

** David read the oath of office to the Board and circulated it for signatures.

** Mike Munson, representing Shires Housing, spoke to the Board regarding a mobile home formerly owned and abandoned by Melissa Clark in 2017. This home was turned over to Shires Housing through a court proceeding in 2018. Mike is asking for abatement of current year and prior years back to 2013 totaling approximately \$3104.00. When Shires took possession of the home, they paid all delinquent and current taxes due. Mike is asking for abatement due to the fact that Shires is attempting to bring the property back up to quality housing and have incurred over \$10,000 in expenses and fees to take possession. His hope is to recoup some of those expenses.

** Barbara Bluto made the motion to table discussion until entering deliberative session later in the meeting, seconded by Jim Marsden, motion passed unanimously.

** Bill Scully, owner of Carbon Zero Hydro Facility explained to the Board that the PFOA contractor did damage to his dam and hydro facility earlier this year and it has been inoperable for some time. There was much discussion as to what his facility and various buildings actually do, what is there and how it functions. Mr. Scully is asking for abatement of the current year taxes as well as the delinquency he has incurred. Currently, the property is assessed on buildings and acreage only. The hydro facility was due to be added to the Grand List in April 2019. Board members discussed what possible criteria for abatement this could be classified as since it is not currently being taxed.

** Cassie made the motion to enter deliberative session to discuss the two abatement requests heard thus far, seconded by Barbara Bluto, motion passed unanimously.

** Joannie made the motion to deny Carbon Zero request for abatement as it does not meet the criteria for abatement and is not currently on the tax rolls. Motion was seconded by Robert Ebert, motion passed by majority with Jim Carroll, Jeanne Conner, Jeannie Jenkins and Michele Hogan abstaining.

** Jim Gulley made the motion to deny the request for abatement by Shires Housing as it does not qualify for abatement and there are currently no taxes due. Motion was seconded by Joannie Pinsonneault, motion passed by majority with Michele Hogan abstaining.

**Jim Marsden made the motion to leave deliberative session, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed unanimously.

**John Antognioni, Chief Assessor, presented three properties for abatement that have been damaged by fire:

**George & Joanne Prouty, 311 Chapel Road, total loss on 12/24/17. Jim Marsden made the motion to refund the approximately \$1572.80 due to the property owners, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed unanimously.

**Vincent Royce, 240 Grandview Street, significantly damaged by a neighboring fire on 5/11/18, insurance deemed unsafe and demolished. Mary Morrissey made the motion to refund the approximately \$1234.04 due to the property owner, seconded by Albert Krawczyk, motion passed by majority with Marjorie Robinson abstaining.

**Kim & Roberta Guertin, 236 Grandview Street, total loss on 5/11/18. Barbara Bluto made the motion to refund the approximately \$2031.62 due to the property owner, seconded by Mary Morrissey, motion passed by majority with Jim Marsden abstaining.

**Joyce Silvestro presented the list from the Collections Office of two mobile homes and two tax sale properties. Cassie made the motion to accept the list as presented, seconded by Joannie, motion passed unanimously.

**With no further business, Mary Morrissey made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Marsden, motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted.



Cassandra Barbeau