

BOARD OF ABATEMENT

JUNE 17, 2014

Chairman Maria Ammatuna called the meeting to order at 8:52 P.M. Other members present were: Seth Clifford, Richard Baker, Joan Thomas, Lou Faivre, Kathleen Johnson, Blaine Cliver, Laura Peterson, Cindy Bell and Clerk Sue Gage.

The following abatement requests were acted upon:

- 1. Kirk Thomas & Tracy Holden: Parcel 0081-0001; Tax Map 07-01-01.01; SPAN 078-024-11518; DWL & 280.22 Acres; 1584 Wheeler Road. Abatement Request Category 24 VSA § 1535(a)(4) Taxes in which there is manifest error or a mistake of the listers.** Kirk Thomas was present. Board members reviewed Kirk's letter requesting an abatement of 2013-2014 property taxes for the Land Use Credit which was not properly credited on their tax bill. Dolores Furnari stated that the tax bill was incorrect and that taxpayer may have filed taxes after April 15, and that something went awry when she noted that the taxes were billed as nonresidential. Members questioned whether the tax bill should be reconsidered as Homestead instead of Nonresidential. Sue stated that we don't have control over that but that the State must alter the Homestead clarification on their end. Richard Baker made a motion to grant a credit of \$2,087.16 to be applied to the 2014-2015 Tax Bill and Seth Clifford seconded the motion. Motion passed. Hearing closed at 9:04 PM.
- 2. John and Chris Herriman: Parcel #0068-0005; Tax Map 22-51-01.02; SPAN 078-024-10772; 5 Pearl Street. Abatement Request Category 24 VSA § 1535(a)(5) Taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.** Property owners were not present for abatement hearings. Members read the letter of abatement submitted by property owners requesting abatement of 2013-2014 property taxes for their barn/garage which burned to the ground on February 20, 2014. Richard Baker moved that we credit a prorated amount of \$86.46 for the 2013-2014 real estate taxes to be credited to the 2014-2015 taxes. Motion passed. Hearing closed at 9:05 PM.
- 3. Pamela J Quenneville: Parcel 0030-0545; Tax Map 07-03-49.03; SPAN 078-024-11458; Mobile Home and 2.4 Acres; 621 Park Street. Abatement Request Category 24 VSA § 1535(a)(4) Taxes in which there is manifest error or a mistake of the listers.** Attorney James Leary and Pamela Quenneville were present and Attorney Leary briefed the members on the letter of abatement. Property owner Pamela Quenneville lost her mobile home to a fire in 2008, and installed a new mobile home on the property which the listers mistakenly assessed as a stick-built structure. She was taxed as a stick-built structure until she appeared before the listers in May 2014 and her property was correctly classified for the 2014-2015 taxes. Ms. Quenneville is requesting a tax abatement for tax years 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 in the amount of \$4,804.75, which would be the difference between taxes that she paid and taxes that would have been due if her residence was listed properly. Blaine Cliver moved to abate the taxes per the request, Seth Clifford seconded the motion. Richard

Baker noted that the current BOA policy of abating only three years in arrears should be amended for this case. All members agreed with amended policy. Ms. Quenneville requested a refund rather than a credit to future taxes. Motions passed. Hearing closed at 9:13

Seth Clifford moved to adjourn the Board of Abatement hearing, seconded by Lou Faivre. Meeting was adjourned at 9:14.

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Maria Ammatuna, BOA Chair

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Susan Gage, Clerk

June 18, 2014