

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ABATEMENT

Tuesday, August 22, 2017 6 pm

TOWN HALL BASEMENT Meeting Room

1 Conant Square, Brandon, VT 05733

Tuesday, August 22, 6 pm

Present: Del Cook-Chair, Seth Hopkins, Marge Munger, Seth Clifford, Sally Cook, Brian Coolidge, Bud Coolidge, Joan Thomas, Laura Peterson and Clerk, Sue Gage (a quorum of members)

Others present: **Maria Ammatuna and David Atherton**

Chair, Del Cook opened the meeting at 5:58 pm after a quorum was present. Mr. Cook administered the oath to Maria Ammatuna and opened the hearing.

- I) **5:58 PM, Salvatore Ammatuna, Trustee, A/C # 1212, 16 Sunset Drive, Brandon, VT 05733;** Clerk, Susan Gage furnished copies of the letter and prior sewer bills submitted by Ms. Ammatuna when she requested abatement in May, as well as usage summary generated by Ms. Gage. It is noted that the received stamp on letter indicates request was received in a timely manner per select board policy. Mr. Cook asked Ms. Ammatuna to address her concerns. Ms. Ammatuna explained that water had leaked from an outdoor watering system into the basement and on the front lawn of the house when the watering system froze and ruptured. Ms. Ammatuna also explained that the leaked water never went into the sewer system. Ms. Ammatuna requested an abatement of sewer fees for water in excess of normal usage. Mr. Cook stated that the board would enter deliberative session and Ms. Ammatuna would be notified in writing about the board's decision. Hearing closed at 6:02.

Deliberations began at 6:11 PM. Motion to abate all except 7,515 gallons, which is the average usage over prior three years, from Marge Munger, seconded by Seth Clifford. Board approved. Ms. Gage will process the abatement, calculate the dollar amount and write the decision which she will send to board members present prior to issuing to requestor.

Written decision abates \$2,581.14 which is 195,684 gallons and interest of \$11.83 and \$25.42. The abatement will result in a refund as the invoice was paid.

II) **6:02 PM, Town of Brandon, Tax Sale Properties Acquired – Taxes and Sewer Charges**  
**TAXES**

- **31 Conway Terrace, Parcel 0102-0031** – Delinquent Taxes and Current Taxes
- **23 River Street, Parcel 0044-0023** – Delinquent Taxes and Current Taxes
- **20 Bridge Park, Parcel 0099-018A** – Delinquent Taxes and Current Taxes
- **Birch Hill Road, Land, Parcel 0085-1464** – Delinquent Taxes and Current Taxes
- **45 Steinberg Road, Parcel 0016-0045** – Delinquent Taxes and Current Taxes
- **Champlain Street, Land, Parcel 0080-1749** – Delinquent Taxes and Current Taxes

**SEWER**

- **31 Conway Terrace, A/C 1123** - Balance of Sewer Bill.
- **23 River Street, A/C 914** - Balance of Sewer Bill.
- **20 Bridge Park, A/C 1110** - Balance of Sewer Bill.

Clerk, Susan Gage furnished copies of the letter from Town Manager requesting abatement on properties acquired by the town in Tax Sale on June 22, 2017. Ms. Gage also enclosed a spreadsheet of outstanding property taxes and sewer fees as well as detail for each property. Seth Clifford moved to abate outstanding property taxes and sewer fees of \$21,343.45, seconded by Joan Thomas and approved by the Board of Abatement. Ms. Gage will process the abatement and write the decision which she will send out to members present before issuing to requestor.

Written decision abates \$16,823.94 in taxes and \$3,816.67 in sewer fees. There was an error in the tax calculation that Ms. Gage supplied at the meeting. This was fixed and revised schedule was sent to members after the meeting.

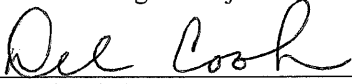
III) **Future Meeting Schedule**

Seth Hopkins suggested setting regular meeting times for the Board of Abatement which can be cancelled if there are no requests. The Board agreed and the next meeting was set for Tuesday, November 28, 2017. Sue will look at the calendar and set future dates in February, May and August of 2018.

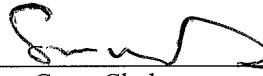
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IV) **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.



Del Cook, Chair



Susan Gage, Clerk