

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
JULY 21, 2016
6:00 PM

Present: Kathleen Neathawk, Town Clerk & Treas.; Peter Golec, Ann DiBernardo, Stefan Golec, Josh Hearne and Lamont Barnett, Select Board Members; Sanford Martin and Stefan Golec, Village Trustee; Patricia Fowler, Dennis Harty, Sally MacPhee and Paul Obuchowski, JP'S; Camilla Roberts, Michael Harty and Paul Noble Board of Listers

Others: Robin Sweetapple

The clerk opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. to nominate a chairperson. Sally MacPhee nominated Paul Obuchowski, seconded by Peter Golec. There were no other nominations or objections, the motion carried.

Lamont Barnett then made a motion to set aside all proceedings from the meeting of June 29 2016 as a result of a Complaint of the Open Meeting Law. Motion was seconded by Sally MacPhee. The motion passed unanimously. The clerk will be sure to add the Warnings, Agendas and minutes to the website of all future meetings.

Island Holdings LLC- PIN 234460025- 21 Island St.

Robin Sweetapple spoke on behalf of BFADC who now owns the property. She stated the building is still vacant. The building was purchased in hopes to revive it and put a business there. They are waiting for the State of Vermont to come in and help clean the site up. Roberts asked if there is any income coming in and Sweetapple answered "No" therefore they feel they cannot pay the taxes. Barnett made a motion to abate the taxes for the years 2014-2015, 2015-2015 and 2016-2017 seconded by Peter Golec. Harty asked what would happen if the taxes were not paid, would the property go to tax sale. Barnett replied "Yes". Harty went on to say "So we wouldn't get taxes anyway because the town is exempt". Motion passed with one opposed.

Island Holdings LLC-PIN 23440610-10 Island St.

Sweetapple cited the same reasoning for this piece of property as the previous. There being no further discussion Barnett made a motion to abate taxes for the years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 seconded by MacPhee. The motion passed with one opposed.

Town of Rockingham/ Bellows Falls Village Corporation

Golec referred to the Resolution signed by both the Town of Rockingham Selectboard and the Village of Bellows Falls Trustee's on June 6, 2006 that state's "At the close of each tax year, the Delinquent Tax Collector for the Town of Rockingham/Bellows Falls Village Corporation will present to the Board of Abatement a request to abate any delinquent property taxes totaling

Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) or less". MacPhee made a motion to abate the taxes at a total of \$559.59 seconded by Barnett. There was no discussion. Motion passed with no objections.

Evan Moore and Anna Powers-PIN 060820051- 51 Rounds Rd.

Mr. Moore was not present and no further information was submitted on his behalf since the first hearing. He was present at the first hearing on June 29, 2016 and he stated he thought he covered everything with what he had sent in. Barnett made a motion to abate \$1,534.59 in taxes, seconded by Peter Golec. Roberts stated that the Lister's responded timely every time Mr. Moore corresponded with them. She could find nothing in their correspondence where an error was made according to the criteria which he marked for his reason for abatement, "Taxes where there is a manifest error or mistake by the Listers". She stated the case that Moore sited as his bases for abatement and it was determined there was no manifest or lister error. Mr. Moore admitted he had sited the wrong case and asked for his abatement to be tabled so he could do his homework. Stefan Golec responded there was a motion and that motion would need to be withdrawn in order to table this. No one withdrew the motion. The motion failed unanimously with Noble and Roberts recusing themselves.

There being no further business Barnett made for a motion to adjourn at 6:28 p.m., seconded by Peter Golec. The motion carried.

Attest: _____ Town Clerk
Kathleen Neathawk

Approved: _____ Chairman
Paul Obuchowski