MINUTES

Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Town of Springfield - Board of Abatement

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Board of Civil Authority Members Present:
Ernest Lamphere
Steve Matush
Cynthia Martin
Alice Emmons
Mark Greenvall
David Yesman
Kelly Stettner
Frank Poole
Steve Sysko
Warren Cross
George McNaughton
Kathleen Stankevich
Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk

Others:
Maxine Aldrich, Assistant Town Clerk
Nichole Knight, Assessor

Board of Abatement:

The Board of Civil Authority 5:30 meeting having ended and no abatement appellants expected, the meeting of the Board of Abatement was called to order at 5:35pm by Chairman Ernest Lamphere.

1. **Swearing in of Board/Witness(es)**

Board Members were sworn in by Clerk. Nichole Knight, Assessor, was sworn in by Clerk.

2. **Requests for Tax Abatement**

Videostop

Appellant was not present. Chairman Lamphere stated owner's name and confirmed amount to be abated. Barbara Courchesne distributed Appellant's letter requesting abatement, copy of tax bill and Town Clerk's letter of instructions and notice to Appellant. Barbara Courchesne read aloud Appellant's letter requesting abatement. Discussion ensued regarding manifest error. Barbara Courchesne explained manifest error could be an error of anyone. Steven Matush confirmed error could be Appellant's. Cynthia Martin stated manifest error could be Jeff Mobus'. Alice Emmons asked when the business closed. Barbara Courchesne stated business closed 21 days into the tax year of 2014-2015.

MOTION: Warren Cross moved to abate $159.68 plus additional interest, or $161.52. Frank Poole seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Vermont Machine Tool

Chairman Lamphere stated owner's name and asked if there was a letter from Appellant. Barbara Courchesne explained that she discusses delinquent taxes with the town attorney, Steve Ankuda, before tax sales and this abatement was put before the Board on his advice. Nichole Knight confirmed that Steve Ankuda indicated personal property tax is not treated the same as real estate tax and there is no longer any personal property there to pay taxes for. George McNaughton asked if the amount is abated, does the town give up its claim in bankruptcy court? He also asked if a claim has been filed in bankruptcy court? Barbara Courchesne stated she presumed Steve Ankuda would have said if the town had an option to collect, but she did not know the answer to the questions regarding bankruptcy. Kelly Stettner commented if the board abates now then we're done or, if the board leaves it, then the board can abate a larger amount later. Alice Emmons asked when the next meeting might be. Barbara Courchesne explained a meeting may potentially be called in August in front of tax sales.

MOTION: George McNaughton moved to table this abatement until the next meeting of the Board. It was confirmed that Barbara Courchesne would discuss the bankruptcy questions with Steve Ankuda and have additional information at the next meeting. Frank Poole seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Warren Cross motioned to adjourn. David Yesman seconded. Adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maxine M. Aldrich
Assistant Town Clerk