

MINUTES

Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 5:30 pm

Organization Meeting

Town of Springfield - Board of Abatement

Selectmen's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Board of Civil Authority Members Present:

Steve Sysko

Cynthia Martin

Warren Cross

Walter Martone

Ernest Lamphere

Kristi Morris

Mark Greenvall

Dave Yesman

Peter Andrews

George McNaughton

Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk

Others:

Maxine Aldrich, Assistant Town Clerk

Lee Murray, Lister

Terry Perkins, Lister

Nichole Knight

Board of Abatement:

1. **Call to Order**

After the quorum being met, the meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Ernest Lamphere.

2. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

None.

3. **Nomination and Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

**MOTION:** Kristi Morris motioned to nominate Ernest Lamphere to serve as Chairperson for a two-year term. Walter Martone seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. David Yesman moved to close nominations, which was seconded by Walter Martone. The motion to appoint Mr. Lamphere as Chairperson for a two-year term was voted and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Barbara Courchesne motioned to nominate Franklin Poole to serve as Vice-Chairperson for a two-year term. Warren Cross seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. David Yesman moved to close nominations, which was seconded by George McNaughton. The motion to appoint Mr. Poole as Vice-Chairperson for a two-year term was voted and passed unanimously.

4. **Review and adoption of VLCT Board of Abatement Rules of Procedure**
5. **Review of VLCT Abatement Hearing Request and Notice of Decision**

Discussions ensued. The Clerk presented that the proposed rules, abatement request form and abatement decision forms were provided by VLCT and that letter H of the proposed rules allows the Board to go into private deliberative session since a decision is written within thirty days and is a public record. Discussion surrounded whether the Board wants to deliberate in public or private. David Yesman discussed past specific instances of public deliberations. Discussion surrounded obtaining enough information before the witnesses and appellant are dismissed and the hearing is closed. George McNaughton agreed that private deliberations are followed by most boards doing judicial functions but he doesn't prefer it. The Clerk read The Open Meeting Law excerpt from the Board of Abatement Handbook. Cynthia Martin asked about the housekeeping of the decision. Kristi Morris questioned the difference of executive session. Mark Greenvall pointed out that the board needs to be careful that members are not offering additional testimony. Warren Cross questioned whether this is for a whole year. The Clerk pointed out letter D of the rules and stated that the rules of procedure stay in place for a year and could be amended at the next organizational meeting.

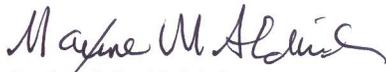
**MOTION:** David Yesman motioned that we give it a try and see how it goes with these new rules. Peter Andrews seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. David Yesman amended the motion to include this April 9, 2015 meeting only. Motion passed by show of hands: 6 in favor; 5 opposed.

**MOTION:** George McNaughton motioned to add subparagraph I to the rules which says upon motion the appellant may be excused from the meeting while we're in deliberative session. David Yesman seconded the motion. Motion passed: 10 in favor; 1 opposed.

#### 6. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** David Yesman moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Steve Sysko. No discussion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Maxine M. Aldrich  
Assistant Town Clerk