

Board of Abatement

8/24/2020

The Board of Abatement met at 7:00 pm in the Pomerleau building for request of abatement hearings. This meeting was held by members of the selectboard per S.344 which was adopted by them on June 22, 2020.

Present were: Selectboard Member & Chair of BCA Kevin Oddy, Selectboard member Timothy Angell, Selectboard member Brendan Hughes, Town Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Jewell, Appellants Erin & Travis Rittenhouse.

There was no public comment.

Meeting was opened by Kevin Oddy. Oaths were given to board members and to Mr. & Mrs. Rittenhouse. Kevin Oddy went over the process of the hearing and the reasons for abatement. All members had copies of the requests from each resident.

Mrs. Rittenhouse referred to the email (exhibit #1) that she had sent for the request, stating that they were in Mexico at the beginning of March and when they returned they were very sick for several weeks. They stated they were not aware they had missed the tax due date until the late notice came in the mail. The email stated they were out of the country at the time the taxes were due, but they returned home on the 6th or 7th of March and taxes were not due until the 18th, with an extensions of the 27th of March. They asked for the penalty of \$196.14 and interest of \$35.57 be abated. With no further comments, Chairman Oddy told them they would be notified in the mail within 14 days.

7:07 on a motion by Brendan Hughes, seconded by Tim Angell the board entered into deliberative session. 7:10 on a motion by Stacy Jewell, seconded by Brendan Hughes to exit deliberative session

The board broke until 7:20 for the hearing request of Blake Jenkins.

7:20 board opened meeting back up, Mr. Jenkins did not show up. Kevin Oddy read the letter of request sent by Mr. Jenkins (exhibit #2). Mr. Jenkins purchased a property in December of 2019, the taxes were not handled at closing. He states he didn't know the bill was due as he didn't receive an original copy of the bill. The original bill was mailed out to the owners of record as of April 1. Stacy Jewell explained that the town doesn't send bills to new owners, as the attorneys receive copies of the bill and what is due at the time of closing. The amount of the penalty was \$65.17, and interest was \$16.30.

7:30 with no one in the building board had deliberative discussion of Mr. Jenkins request.

7:35 board opened meeting back up, Mr. Poginy did not show up. Kevin Oddy read the letter of request that was sent by Mr. Poginy (exhibit #3). Mr. Poginy asked for abatement of penalty \$299.02, and interest \$158.50 on property tax and penalty of \$25.00 and interest of \$24.36 on water/sewer charges at 1194 Main Street. His reason from his letter stated the loss of revenue due to Covid-19. Taxes were due on March 18th, state of emergency was not issued until March 13. The interest and penalty on the water/sewer bill were from a bill that was due on February 2nd.

Mr. Poginy asked for abatement of penalty \$384.01, interest of \$203.52 on property taxes and penalty of \$25.00 and interest \$4.60 on water/sewer charges at 652 Railroad Street. His reason from his letter stated the loss of revenue due to Covid-19. Taxes were due on March 18th, state of emergency was not issued until March 13. The interest and penalty on the water/sewer bill were from a bill that was due on February 2nd.

7:45 with no one in the building the board had a deliberative discussion of Mr. Poginy requests.

Kevin Oddy asked the clerk to send out letters of decision with 14 days of the hearing.

On a motion by Stacy Jewell, seconded by Brendan Hughes meeting was adjourned.