

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MINUTES

APRIL 17, 2024

MEMBERS: Connie Boutin, Danielle James Choiniere, Gina Lewis, John Goodrich, Margret Brescia, Russell Duchaine, Jim Magner, Cheryl Dunn, Donna Boumil, Elliot Knight

GUESTS: Ed Gabree, Jr.

The meeting opened at 6:49 pm by Chair Knight.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM 9/19/2023

- *Cheryl Dunn motioned to approve these minutes. Margret Brescia seconded, all in favor. So approved.*

ABATEMENTS

Listers had requested RS308 have its taxes abated to the amount of \$8,083.54. The farm property was merged with contiguous land owned by the same owner (Joe Sprano) but RS308 was not inactivated, so Mr. Sprano was billed twice.

- *Elliot Knight motioned to abate the \$8,083.54. Russell Duchaine seconded, all in favor. So approved.*

The second abatement was upon request of the property owner of RS307, Stacy Peterson. He inherited the property from his mother in December 2022 and found out there were delinquent taxes on it. He is on disability but would like to fix the property up and has someone helping with his finances and contractors who would help him.

There are balances from 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 taxes totaling \$5,088.61.

Cheryl Dunn mentioned that abating sets a precedence for others. A board member asked if there was a payment in place with the delinquent collector, and Ed Gabree, who was there on behalf of Mr. Peterson, confirmed they have a plan of \$150 per month. Backstory was mentioned about an agreement on the property between prior owners and its validity, if the rental housing on the property should be paying lot rent to Mr. Peterson when they haven't. A comment was made portions of the taxes could be abated.

Danielle James Choiniere asked if Mr. Peterson lives in the house and it was answered he does not but hopes to.

Some board members expressed feeling sorry for the situation, but it sets precedent to abate anyone's taxes who express hardship—with taxes as high as they are, there are hardships for many taxpayers.

- *Cheryl Dunn motioned to deny the abatement request. John Goodrich seconded, all in favor. So voted.*

OTHER BUSINESS AS PRESENTED

None.

ADJOURN

- *Russell Duchaine motioned to adjourn at 7:09pm. Elliot Knight seconded, all in favor. So adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle James Choiniere
Assistant Town Clerk