

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE
BOARD OF ABATEMENT
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 13, 2021**

DRAFT

***Hybrid meeting held in-person and by teleconference.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Webster (Chair); Nancy Baker (Vice Chair), Lee Suskin, Rebecca Moore, Laura Gannon-Murakami, Joan Lenes, Jennifer Leopold, Randy Rowland, Susan Bowen, Judy Rosenstreich, Denis Barton.

ADMINISTRATION: Diana Vachon, Town Clerk; Linda Barker, Treasurer, Lee Krohn, Town Manager/Delinquent Tax Collector

APPELLANT(S): Laurie Kotorman.

1. CALL TO ORDER

David Webster, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. MINUTES

August 9, 2021

MOTION by Becky Moore, SECOND by Susan Bowen, to approve the minutes of 4/12/21. No discussion. Cate Cross and Jennifer Leopold abstain. Motion passes.

5. ABATEMENT REQUEST

Individuals to give testimony before the Board were sworn in.

Carl Beane, 37 Nashville Rd

Lee Krohn and Laurie Kotorman appeared on behalf of the abatement request.

APPELLANT TESTIMONY

Lee Krohn, Town Manager/Delinquent Tax Collector

Mr. Krohn testified he submitted a memo with a detailed history of the taxes owed on this property which have not been collected back to fiscal year 2010-2011. Mr. Beane owned the mobile home, which was removed from the site because it was uninhabitable. Mr. Beane moved out of state and the Town would need to incur legal costs to collect the amount owed and would very likely exceed the amount owed which is \$4,122.33 of taxes, penalties, and interest at this point in time. This is the amount sought to be abated. The abatement request is under 24VSA1535(a)(2) which allows abatement of taxes on real or personal property of persons who have removed from the state.

Mr. Rowland asked Mr. Krohn if Mr. Beane were to move back to Shelburne, VT, would there be any consequences if we abate the taxes? Mr. Beane would not be able to serve on any appointed Board or Commission. Theoretically, he could be elected to a town position.

Ms. Bowen ask if we could put this on Mr. Beane's credit report? Mr. Krohn stated we could. If the Board decides to abate the taxes, then the debt is wiped from the books.

Vice Chair Baker commented that we currently are not collecting taxes on a structure. We need to think about getting this amount cleared up, so we can collect future taxes.

Ms. Kotorman, Livingston MHP Manager and daughter of the mobile home park owner Mr. Rooney, testified she is helping her Dad who is in his 90's now, clean up some items on his agenda that have escaped his energy. The tenants were not on a lease. They sort of landed at the mobile home and it deteriorated to a point that it was uninhabitable. Mr. Beane owed Mr. Rooney a total of \$17,400, which does not include any water bills that Mr. Rooney paid. Mr. Rooney has put a different mobile home on the property and would like to start paying taxes on the mobile home. However, to record the Bill of Sale, the previous owner's taxes need to be resolved per state statute.

Chair Webster asked when was the uninhabitable mobile home removed from the park? Ms. Kotorman said it was shortly after the eviction process which was made final on 5/31/2019. Mr. Beane gave Mr. Rooney written permission to dispose of the mobile home. Mr. Rooney did not take ownership of the mobile home. They started dismantling it about a month after the eviction in 2019. It took several months to completely remove the mobile home.

DELIBERATION/DECISION

David Webster asked for more questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

MOTION by Joan Lenes SECOND by Becky Moore to abate the full amount of \$4,122.33 on 37 Nashville Rd SPAN #: 582-183-10142. Motion passed unanimously.

6. CLOSE/RECESS THE HEARING

MOTION by Peter Gadue SECONDED by Cate Cross to recess the hearing.

DISCUSSION:

- **The motion should be to close the hearing because we have finalized the decision.**

AMENDMENT by Lee Suskin, SECOND by Rand Rowland, to close the hearing. Motion passes 11 ayes and 1 nay by Peter Gadue.

Chair Webster stated the hearing is closed 7:20 PM.

7. CONSIDER SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSALS. He then asked vice Chair Nancy Baker to address item #7 Consider Subcommittee Proposals. Vice Chair Baker asked to table this agenda item.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed the need for better technical equipment in order for the large number of board members to be adequately heard. Town Manager Kohn, Chair Webster, Vice Chair Baker, and Town Clerk Vachon will develop a better system for the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION by Lee Suskin, SECOND by Denis Barton, to adjourn the meeting.
VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

By Tape RScTy: Diana Vachon Town Clerk