

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2009
GIFFORD MEDICAL CENTER
MAPLE LEAF CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: **Justices of the Peace:** Richard Burstein, Ruth Lutz, Jack Cowdrey, William Brigham, John Jackson, Barbara Angell, Ellen Baker, and Pat Meyer
Selectboard: Carol Flint, Dennis Brown, Lawrence Townsend, and Stephen Webster
Board of Listers: Don Sweetser, Polly Frankenburg and Linda Nissl
Town Clerk & Treasurer: Joyce Mazzucco
Others: Patrick French, Dwight Porter and Mary Porter

Richard Burstein, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The first order of business was to consider the abatement request of Robert Caron, Manager of Prospect Forest, on behalf of Central Vermont Community Action, property located at 5 Church Street, parcel #241003-000. Fire destroyed the building on September 26, 2009. The following board members recused themselves: Polly Frankenburg, Carol Flint and Richard Burstein.

A discussion followed with the following people participating: Patrick French, Richard Burstein, Pat Meyer, Carol Flint, Dennis Brown, Stephen Webster, Joyce Mazzucco and Ellen Baker. There was a question about the value of the property. Because this property is subsidized housing, the property value is determined solely by income per state statute. Generally, about 20% of the value is in the land and site improvements. There was also a discussion about what will happen with the property.

Dennis Brown made a motion that the property taxes be at 100% of value to the date of the fire and at 20% of value for the remainder of the tax year and to abate the difference. Jack Cowdrey seconded the motion. The board spent several minutes calculating the property taxes and the difference in taxes to abate. The board determined that the taxpayer should pay \$1,439.11 in property taxes. The difference between the original tax bill amount and the adjusted property taxes due to fire loss is \$2,137.59. This is the amount of taxes to abate. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote, with three (3) abstentions. The Central Vermont Community Action property tax account will be reduced by \$2,137.59. Since the taxpayer paid \$1,788.35 for the first installment of taxes, and the adjusted property taxes due is \$1,439.11, the difference of \$349.24 will be refunded to the taxpayer.

There was no further business to consider. Pat Meyer made a motion to adjourn. Don Sweetser seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Attest: _____
Joyce L. Mazzucco, Town Clerk