

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 25, 2013**  
**RANDOLPH TOWN HALL**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM B**

**Present: Justices of the Peace:** Ellen Baker, Barbara Angell, Richard Burstein, James Sault, and Ruth Lutz

**Selectboard:** Trini Brassard, Dennis Brown and Larry Richburg (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)

**Board of Listers:** Donald Sweetser and Mimi Burstein

**Town Clerk & Treasurer:** Joyce Mazzucco

**Others:** Richard L. Chamberlin, Richard E. Chamberlin, Morgan Rilling and Patrick French

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Board Chair Richard Burstein when there were a sufficient number of board members present for a quorum.

The first order of business was to consider the abatement request of Richard E. Chamberlin, property located at 712 Vermont Route 12A. The trailer on the property was damaged by fire on November 19, 2012. Mr. Chamberlin was seeking an abatement of taxes under 24 V.S.A. 1535(a)(5) "taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year". Mr. Chamberlin's abatement request letter was labeled as "Exhibit #1". Patrick French, Town Assessor had prepared a memo to the Board of Abatement with information about the value of the property before and after the fire, and a suggested abatement amount. This memo was labeled "Exhibit A". Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco administered the following oath to Mr. Chamberlin, Richard L. Chamberlin, Morgan Rilling and Patrick French: "Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the evidence you shall give relative to the cause now under consideration shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God or under the pains and penalties of perjury?" Mr. Burstein asked Mr. Chamberlin if he had any additional information to provide to the board and if Mr. Chamberlin had seen the memo Mr. French had provided to the board. Mr. Chamberlin told the board he did not have any additional information and he had seen Mr. French's memo and felt the proposed abatement amount was fair. A discussion followed with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Richard Burstein, Richard E. Chamberlin, Richard L. Chamberlin, Patrick French, and Barbara Angell. James Sault made a motion to approve the abatement of \$402.97 in taxes on Mr. Chamberlin's FY 2013 property tax bill. Dennis Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Burstein took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote, with one abstention (Mr. Burstein). Ms. Mazzucco told Mr. Chamberlin a refund check would be sent to him next month.

The next order of business was to consider the abatement request of Jonathan Rilling, property located at 25 Forest Street. The board changed the order of the agenda because Mr. Lamell was not present at the meeting and Mr. Rilling, who is currently serving in the military and is deployed, sent his wife Morgan Rilling to represent him at the meeting. The house sustained significant damage due to a fire on November 2, 2012. Mr. Rilling was seeking an abatement of taxes under 24 V.S.A. 1535(a)(5) "taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year". Mr. Rilling's abatement request letter was labeled as "Exhibit 1"

and the memo from Mr. French with information about the value of the property before and after the fire, and a suggested abatement amount was labeled as "Exhibit A". Mr. Burstein asked Mrs. Rilling if there was any additional information she wished to present to the board. Mrs. Rilling told the board that the insurance settlement was not enough to rebuild the house and her husband plans to remove the building. A discussion followed with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Richard Burstein, Morgan Rilling, Barbara Angell and Jim Sault. The cellar hole will be filled in once the building is removed. Dennis Brown made a motion to approve the abatement of \$1,038.93 in taxes on Mr. Rilling's FY 2013 property tax bill. The motion was seconded by Ellen Baker. Mr. Burstein took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote, with one abstention (Mr. Burstein). Ms. Mazzucco told Mrs. Rilling a refund check would be sent to them next month.

The next order of business was to consider the abatement request of Ronald Lamell, Sr., property located at 5338 Vermont Route 66. Mr. Lamell purchased the property through a tax sale and is seeking an abatement of all penalty and interest charges assessed on the property since he took ownership. In his letter, Mr. Lamell stated he did not receive notification of property taxes due on the property until 12/03/2012. Mr. Lamell's letter was labeled as "Exhibit 1". Mr. Burstein opened the floor to discussion. The following individuals participated in the discussion: James Sault, Richard Burstein, Joyce Mazzucco, Dennis Brown, Barbara Angell, Ellen Baker and Larry Richburg. The discussion centered on tax sales and the liabilities a person assumes in purchasing a property at tax sale. Mr. Sault made a motion to deny the abatement of penalty and interest charges on the property located at 5338 Vermont Route 66. Barbara Angell seconded the motion. Mr. Burstein took a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote, with one abstention (Mr. Burstein).

There was no further business to consider. Dennis Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Richburg seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion to adjourn carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk  
Joyce L. Mazzucco