

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2012
RANDOLPH TOWN HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM B

Present: Justices of the Peace: Ruth Lutz, Ellen Baker, Barbara Angell, William Brigham, Sheila Jacobs, Richard Burstein, Pat Meyer, Jack Cowdrey, and John Jackson
Selectboard: Frank Reed
Board of Listers: Donald Sweetser, Mimi Burstein and Polly Frankenburg
Town Clerk & Treasurer: Joyce Mazzucco
Others: Linda Wheelock

The Board of Abatement Meeting was called to order by chair Richard Burstein at 6:35 p.m. The first order of business was the continuation of the abatement hearing for Todd and Linda Wheelock, property located at 22 Weston Street, Parcel # 255014.000. As requested by the Board at the previous meeting, Mrs. Wheelock provided the Board with copies of their 2010 and 2011 income tax returns. The electronic copy of their 2009 income tax returns was lost in a computer failure. The copies of the income tax returns were circulated to the board members to review. The following items were labeled as evidence:

- Exhibit #1 – The Wheelocks’ letter, dated March 12, 2012, requesting an abatement of taxes
- Exhibit #2 – The Wheelocks’ 2010 Federal & State Tax Returns
- Exhibit #3 – The Wheelocks’ 2011 Federal & State Tax Returns

Mrs. Wheelock did not have any further evidence to provide and the Board had no further questions. The evidence was closed. Frank Reed made a motion to go into deliberative session. The motion was seconded by Pat Meyer. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The Board entered deliberative session at 6:40 p.m. Mrs. Wheelock and the members of the Board who did not attend the last meeting (Frank Reed and Jack Cowdrey) exited the conference room.

The Board came out of deliberative session at 7:05 p.m. Sheila Jacobs made a motion to abate \$1,361.74 in taxes, leaving a balance due of \$4,000.00 in delinquent taxes. John Jackson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote (Frank Reed and Jack Cowdrey did not vote) and one abstention (Richard Burstein). A written decision will be sent to the Wheelocks. The copies of income tax returns entered into evidence will be destroyed because of the confidential nature of the documents after 30 days.

The next order of business was to hear the tax abatement appeal of Rudolph Keicher, property located at 107 Bluebird Lane, Parcel #116010.000. Mr. Keicher was not present at the meeting. Mr. Keicher made his abatement request to this Board on April 26, 2012 under 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(3) “taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest and collection fees”. The Keichers were late in paying their property taxes due to Mrs. Keicher’s medical emergency. She was in the hospital for an extended period. Joyce Mazzucco informed the

Board that Mrs. Keicher passed away last week. A discussion followed and there was a question about how much the penalty and interest charges were. Ms. Mazzucco told the Board the penalty and interest charges totaled \$127.55. John Jackson made a motion to abate \$127.55 in taxes. Pat Meyer seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote and one abstention (Richard Burstein). A written decision will be sent to Mr. Keicher.

There was no further business to consider. Jack Cowdrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat Meyer. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Attest: _____
Joyce L. Mazzucco, Town Clerk