

BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 29, 2013
RANDOLPH TOWN HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM B
6:30 P.M.

Present: Justices of the Peace: Ruth Lutz, Barbara Angell, Martha Lawrence, Richard Burstein, Jack Cowdrey and Ellen Baker

Selectboard: Larry Richburg and Marjorie Ryerson

Board of Listers: Donald Sweetser, and Mimi Burstein

Town Clerk & Treasurer: Joyce Mazzucco

Others: Patrick French, Town Assessor, Kurt Haupt and Kieran Haupt

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board Chair Richard Burstein. The first order of business was to consider the tax abatement request of Kurt Haupt, executor of the Kurt Haupt estate, property located at 16 Park Street. The dwelling was damaged by fire on June 28, 2013. Mr. Haupt was requesting for the appropriate portion of the 2012-2013 property taxes and the 2013-2014 property taxes to be abated. Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco administered the following oath to Kurt Haupt 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)?"

Kurt Haupt told the Board that the insurance company has declared the house a total loss and the insurance claim has been settled. Mr. Haupt is waiting for the contractor to remove the fire debris and remaining structure. Mr. Haupt's abatement request letter, received by the Town on August 12, 2013, was labeled as "Exhibit 1". Mr. French presented a handout to the Board describing the loss and provided suggested abatement amounts. This document was labeled "Exhibit 2". The dwelling value prior to the fire was \$63,000.00. Since the insurance company has declared it a total loss, the loss in value was \$63,000.00. If the Board were to abate the taxes for the FY 2013 (2012-2013) tax year, it would be an abatement for three (3) days loss of use and the amount would be \$12.36. If the Board were to abate the taxes on the dwelling value for the FY 2014 (2013-2014) tax year, it would be an abatement for the entire tax year beginning July 1, 2013 and the amount would be \$1,533.74. A discussion followed with the following individuals participating in the discussion: Barbara Angell, Patrick French, Richard Burstein, Larry Richburg, Martha Lawrence, Mimi Burstein, Kurt Haupt, Joyce Mazzucco and Ellen Baker.

There was no further discussion. Mr. Burstein asked if there was a motion to abate. Jack Cowdrey made a motion to abate the taxes for FY 2013 in the amount of \$12.36 and the taxes for FY 2014 in the amount of \$1,533.74. Martha Lawrence seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote with one abstention (Richard Burstein).

A discussion followed about how the abated taxes would be applied or disbursed. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: Joyce Mazzucco, Kurt Haupt, Patrick French and Richard Burstein. The abated taxes will be applied on the FY 2014 property taxes and Mr. Haupt will be billed for any remaining balance due.

There was no further business to consider. Don Sweetser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Larry Richburg. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Attest: _____
Joyce L. Mazzucco, Town Clerk