

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016
RANDOLPH TOWN HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM B
6:30P.M.**

Present: Justices of the Peace: Jack Cowdrey, Ruth Lutz, Richard Burstein, Mike Ross, George Phillips, Jessamyn West, and Martha Lawrence

Board of Listers: Ed Luce and Patrick French

Town Clerk & Treasurer: Joyce Mazzucco

Selectboard: Trini Brassard

Others: Forrest and Susan Griffin

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Richard Burstein called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. when a quorum of the Board was present.

2. Approve the Agenda

Jessamyn West made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jack Cowdrey seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. To consider the abatement request of Forrest and Susan Griffin on behalf of F & S Griffin Properties, LLC, Parcel #248009-000, SPAN #507-159-13914, property located at 17 South Main Street. The appeal is being made under 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(5), “taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year”.

Mr. Burstein opened the meeting by having three documents entered and labeled as evidence. The following items were entered into evidence and labeled as follows:

Exhibit #1: F & S Griffin Properties, LLC’s Abatement Hearing Request application, received on June 8, 2016.

Exhibit #2: A copy of F & S Griffin Properties, LLC’s FY 2016 property tax bill

Exhibit #3: Lister’s Recommendation for Abatement

Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco administered the following oath to the appellants, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin and Pat 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. and Mrs. Griffin to present their evidence in support of their abatement request. Mr. Griffin indicated that he is satisfied with the recommendation made by the Listers for an abatement of \$513.30. There was a brief discussion, with

Jessamyn West, Richard Burstein, Trini Brassard and Pat French participating. The Listers have lowered the assessment value from \$217,400 to \$89,200, a reduction in value of \$128,200. The lower value of \$89,200 will be used to calculate the current tax year taxes. There was no further discussion. Trini Brassard made a motion to abate the taxes in the amount of \$513.30 as recommended by the Board of Listers. Jessamyn West and Jack Cowdrey both seconded the motion. Mr. Burstein called for a voice vote and the motion carried by majority vote (10-0-1) (Abstention-Richard Burstein). A written decision will be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Griffin.

5. Other Business.

There was no other business.

6. Adjournment.

Martha Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jack Cowdrey seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Attest: _____
Joyce L. Mazzucco, Town Clerk