

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2015
CONFERENCE ROOM B
6:00 P.M.**

Present: Justices of the Peace: Richard Burstein, Martha Lawrence, George Phillips, Ruth Lutz, Mike Ross, Tom Harty, Jessamyn West and Jim Sault

Selectboard: Tom Schersten, and Larry Richburg

Board of Listers: Don Sweetser and Ed Luce

Town Clerk & Treasurer: Joyce Mazzucco

Others: Patrick French

The Board of Abatement meeting was called to order by Board Chair Richard Burstein at 6:05 p.m. There was a quorum of the Board present. The first order of business was to approve the meeting agenda. Don Sweetser made a motion to approve the agenda. Jessamyn West seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The agenda was approved as posted.

The next order of business was to consider the tax abatement request of Phyllis Lefebvre, property located at 2850 Stock Farm Road, Parcel #118086-000, SPAN #507-159-13110. Town Clerk Joyce Mazzucco informed the Board that she had received a phone call from Mrs. Lefebvre and she stated she would be unable to attend the meeting. The following items were entered in as evidence:

Exhibit #1 – Abatement Hearing Request form received on 09/11/2015

Exhibit #2 – Copy of the FY 2016 property tax bill

Exhibit #3 – Letter received from Mrs. Lefebvre 08/12/2015

Mrs. Lefebvre stated in her letter and in the hearing request form that her only income is from Social Security. Her husband passed away a couple of years ago and she is struggling to pay all her bills. She is seeking some assistance by reducing her property tax bill. Her appeal to the Board of Abatement is made under 24 V.S.A. §1535(a)(3): “(a) The board may abate in whole or part taxes, interest, or collection fees, other than those arising out of a corrected classification of homestead or nonresidential property, accruing to the town in the following cases:... (3) taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and collection fees...” Mr. Burstein opened the floor for discussion of Mrs. Lefebvre’s appeal. The Board members had a number of questions regarding how much income she was receiving, how much were her expenses, had she applied to Social Security to receive her husband’s Social Security benefits, how old she was, the size of her property, if there were any family members nearby, and if she received a state education tax adjustment credit. Participating in the discussion were the following individuals: Joyce Mazzucco, Martha Lawrence, Richard Burstein, Jessamyn West, Tom Harty, Don Sweetser, George Phillips, Tom Schersten, Mike Ross, Ruth Lutz and Jim Sault. Since Mrs. Lefebvre was not present to answer the questions, the Board could only consider the information provided in Exhibits 1, 2 and 3. Mike Ross made a motion to deny the tax abatement request. Jim Sault seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion

carried by majority vote with two (2) abstentions (Richard Burstein and Martha Lawrence). The tax abatement request of Phyllis Lefebvre was denied. A written decision will be sent to Mrs. Lefebvre.

There was no further business to consider. Jim Sault made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Ross seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried by majority vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Attest: _____
Joyce L. Mazzucco, Town Clerk