

Town of Springfield - Board of Abatement

Selectboard's Hall - 96 Main Street - Third Floor

Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 5:40 p.m. Minutes

Board of Civil Authority Members Present:

Ernest Lamphere

Judy Stern

Char Osterlund

John Middleton

Warren Cross

Josephine Hingston

Thornton Cody

Stephen Matush

Lisa Young

Randy Gray

Elizabeth Gray

Kathy Scott Weaver

Walter Martone

Michael Martin

Barbara Courchesne, Town Clerk

Others:

Maxine Aldrich, Assistant Town Clerk

Nichole Knight, Assessor

After the quorum being met, the meeting of the Board of Abatement was called to order at 5:40 pm by Chairperson Ernest Lamphere. The Board was sworn in.

1. Additions to Agenda

None.

2. Requests for Tax Abatement

Kimberly and Bryan Cheeney – 29 Wilmuth Dr – Parcel 027/5/76

Appellant, Kimberly Cheeney, was present. Barbara Courchesne went over the documents with Appellant and explained the process. Copies of Appellants' abatement request under Reason 5 (24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(5)) and financial information were distributed to all present.

Appellant and Assessor, Nichole Knight, were sworn in by Clerk.

Chairperson Lamphere asked if there was any conflict of interest. Hearing none, the hearing proceeded.

Chairperson Lamphere confirmed Appellant received all notices and asked for Appellant to identify the abatement category of her request. Appellant stated Reason 5. Appellant stated on January 17, 2024 she was made aware that her house was on fire, when she arrived it was

engulfed inside, it was a total loss and they lost everything, except for the property. She was approached by the Red Cross and they suggested procedures she should keep in mind to move forward and tax abatement was one of the procedures.

Nichole Knight confirmed the date of the fire and the total loss of the house.

Michael Martin confirmed \$79,700 is the damage. Barbara Courchesne reviewed and explained the calculation of the abatement. Judy Stern asked about the first and second quarters being abated. Barbara Courchesne confirmed it is from the date of the fire forward on the value that burned. Warren Cross asked for confirmation of amount to be abated. Barbara Courchesne confirmed the abatement amount is \$1,206.15, less the payment for the third and fourth quarter, for a net to the Appellant of \$882.63. Kathy Weaver asked about the revised tax statement. It was explained that the revised statement was due to the homestead credit and not the fire. Walter Martone confirmed the education portion of the tax will still have to be paid to the state by the town, and asked how much that is. Barbara Courchesne stated approximately \$522.

Chairperson Lamphere advised the Appellant that the Board would enter deliberation and a written decision would be issued within 30-days. He asked if Appellant or Assessor had anything to add.

MOTION: Warren Cross moved to enter deliberation. Seconded by Stephen Matush. No discussion. Motion passed.

Board entered deliberation.

MOTION: Warren Cross moved to abate the amount of \$1,206.15 for Reason 5. Beth Gray seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Stephen Matush moved to adjourn. Beth Gray seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maxine M. Aldrich

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Assistant Town Clerk