

DRAFT
MINUTES NORWICH BOARD OF ABATEMENT
OCTOBER 15, 2018

Members Present: JP's: Carroll, Ciccotelli, Clinton, Dean, DeGasta, Gray, Rotman and Smith and Teller-Elsberg.

Selectboard: Brochu, Langhus and Pepper

Lister: Lindberg

Town Clerk: Munday

Appellants: Bean, Phil and Schiller, Sue

Dean called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. The board introduced themselves to the appellants.

Request from Sue Schiller: In an attempt to file her Homestead Declaration early, she filed on line. When she came to the end of the form she hit the button to download the form but believes that she may not have hit the send button.

Schiller was unaware of her mistake until she received a copy of her "Revised Tax Bill". At this point she spoke to a person in the Finance Office who thought that Roberta Robinson might be able to "waive" the penalty but Roberta was not immediately in.

Schiller paid her taxes on time but did not pay the penalty and interest that had been added on.

When Schiller spoke with Roberta Robinson it was suggested that she contact the State Tax Department; someone there told her that it would be the Town that would offer the Abatement.

Still believing that she would be hearing from Roberta, Schiller waited for a response.

In speaking with a member of the Selectboard, Schiller was then directed to make her appeal to the Town Manager, from whom she received no direct response.

In speaking with a member of the Selectboard, it was suggested that she contact Nancy Dean who explained that she should send her appeal to the "Tax Abatement Committee" and that the Manager had no authorization to grant an abatement. Schiller is asking for an abatement in the amount of \$1,596.63.

Request from Phil Bean: On October 25, 2017 Bean received a "Revised Property Tax Bill" in the amount of \$1,708.14. Bean immediately contacted Roberta Robinson asking why this had happened and was informed that his Homestead Declaration had not been filed in time.

However, on April 1, 2017, Bean had filed his Homestead Declaration and submitted it to the State Tax Department. In a phone call to the State of Vermont on October 27, 2017, Bean was told that there had been several problems with the online filing program on the date Bean had filed.

On October 28, 2017, Bean sent a letter to the Listers for an appeal on the penalty and interest which went unanswered. Bean sent another letter to the Listers to which he received no response. Lindberg reported that for reasons unknown the Listers did not see this letter.

On Monday, April 30, 2018 Lindberg contacted Mr. Bean and suggested that he make a formal request to the Board of Abatement for the late filing based on a Manifest Error which he did.

Bean did pay the amount of \$1,708.14 and is asking for abatement in this amount.

The hearing was closed at 7:45 and then went into Deliberative Session. Langhus left the meeting at this point.

Bean: It was found that his request was timely due to his trying to correct the manifest error in a timely fashion and should be abated.

A motion made by Rotman seconded by Ciccotelli to abate the amount of \$1,708.14 in the form of a credit. Motion passed unanimously.

Schiller: Schiller attempted to file her Homestead Declaration on time. She became aware that there was a problem only when she received her "Revised Tax Bill". Schiller contacted various Town Offices at that time and eventually made a proper appeal to the Board of Abatement.

A motion made by Gray seconded by Rotman concludes that Schiller had brought her appeal to the Board in a timely fashion, and to abate penalty and interest in the amount of \$1,569.63.

Motion passed on a vote of 9 Yes 4-No.

A motion made by Carroll, seconded by Lindberg to adjourn. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie J. Munday
Norwich Town Clerk