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MORRISTOWN

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MINUTES: BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING

The Board of Civil Authority for Abatement of the Town of Morristown, notified and warned, met at the Conference Room at the Municipal Office Building, 43 Portland Street in said town on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 5:30 P.M.

Members present: R Bedell, T Breault, F Favreau, P Griswold, S Leach, B Paine, S Rooney, E Wilson, B Kellogg, M Cote, M Smith and MA Wilson.

Listers present: C McArthur, D Sprague and J Compagna.

Meeting opened at 5:30 PM by Chairman Favreau.

Pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 1535, the Board of Civil Authority heard appeals for abatement of property taxes in whole or in part, accruing to the town from the following appellants:

Bees Knees/Shake Sugaree LLC – ID #21027:
Clerk Wilson read appellant's letter requesting abatement. (Request attached.) Ms. Caroli was not present. After discussion and upon a motion by E Wilson with a second by B Kellogg, the board voted to deny the request to abate late penalty in the amount of $425.69 for FY11. There is no statutory criteria to abate penalty due to a late payment. The board will take under advisement her request to reconsider the policy of penalties on late payments.

Barbara Adams – ID #07243:
Clerk Wilson read appellant's letter requesting abatement. (Request attached.) Mr. and Mrs. Adams were present. The Listers testified that this parcel was a duplicate entry in the 2010 Grand List, and billed in error. However, the error was not caught, and the Adams paid all of the taxes that were billed. Upon motion by B Kellogg with a second by T Breault, the board voted affirmatively under Criteria #4 to abate FY11 taxes in the amount of $3,089.98, and credit the over payment to the FY12 taxes on Parcel #07244.01. S Leach abstained from voting. The Listers will correct the parcel information for FY12, and a revised tax bill will be sent showing the proper assessment and the credit from abatement.

Diane Bettis – ID #07306:
Clerk Wilson read appellant's request for abatement. (Request attached.) Ms Bettis was in attendance and presented documents confirming her current financial status. She asked for abatement under Criteria #3. After hearing her testimony the board, upon motion entered into deliberative session. After exiting deliberative session, B Kellogg moved to abate FY12 taxes in the amount of $721.31 for taxes of persons unable to pay their taxes, interest and collection fees. Motion seconded by E Wilson. Upon the vote of the board, the motion failed and abatement was denied. Although the board was sympathetic to Ms.

Bettis's circumstances, it did not agree that her testimony warranted abatement. The board suggested that perhaps Ms.Bettis could set up a payment plan with the town treasurer for the property taxes and contact the various agencies for assistance.

Jeremiah Davison (estate) – ID #70011:

The Listers requested that the FY12 taxes of $62.74 be abated. The mobile home has been uninhabitable, the owner is deceased and the property should have been removed from the 2011 Grand List. Because it was still on the 2011 Grand List, taxes were assessed for FY12 in error. Upon motion by T Breault with a second by B Kellogg the board voted affirmatively to abate $62.74 in taxes for FY12 under Criteria #4.

With no other business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM upon motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Wilson

Mary Ann Wilson, Clerk
Board of Civil Authority