

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
43 PORTLAND STREET
MORRISVILLE, VERMONT 05661-0748

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING
BOARD OF ABATEMENT

The Board of Civil Authority of the Town of Morristown being duly notified and warned, met at the Community Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 43 Portland Street in said town on Tuesday, the 21st day of October 2008, at 5:30 P.M.

Members present: Margaret Demars, Francis Favreau, Donald Blake, Rhoda Bedell, Siri Rooney, Edward Wilson, David Yacovone, Bob Beeman, Brian Kellogg, Todd Yando and Mary Ann Wilson.

Listers: Charles McArthur and Thomas Williams

Meeting called to order by Chairman Favreau at 5:30 PM.

Minutes of 06/21/07 meeting approved upon motion.

Pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535, the Board considered abatement of real estate and personal property taxes assessed:

1. Robyn Chaffee: Parcel ID #70047. Clerk Wilson read Ms. Chaffee's letter requesting abatement. Ms. Chaffee testified in person that her financial situation has her behind in many areas – one of which was her unpaid taxes for FY08. She sought abatement of her delinquent taxes in the amount of \$237.78 based on her inability to pay at this time. The board made several suggestions of resources for possible assistance. After deliberative session, Ed Wilson moved to abate \$237.78 in FY08 taxes and fees under criteria #3 of State Statutes – inability to pay. Motion seconded by Todd Yando. Upon vote, request for abatement was denied.

2. H. Stanley Stoney: Parcel ID# 23066. Clerk Wilson read Mr. Stoney's letter requesting an abatement of "this year's increase and a roll back of two years to the 2006 appraisal". Mr. Stoney was in attendance, and he presented informational handouts and spoke about the sluggishness of the real estate market. He questioned the taxable value applied to his property. Lister McArthur explained the equity of the assessment process for all parcels. Satisfied that he had been treated equitably compared to all Morristown property assessments, Mr. Stoney withdrew his request for change of appraisal and abatement of taxes.

3. Nellie Godin: Parcel ID# 22025. Correspondence from Mrs. Godin explained that an error had been made in the 2007 homestead assessment of her property and that she should receive an abatement of \$67.37. The Listers agreed that an error had been made in the calculation of her homestead. Upon motion by Rhoda Bedell with a second by Peg Demars, the board voted affirmatively to abate \$67.37 for taxes in FY08 based on criteria #4 – Listers' error, and credit that amount to Mrs. Godin's FY09 taxes.

4. Somerset Capital Group: Parcel ID# 90340. Equipment was removed from Morristown, but not taken off the 2007 Grand List. No taxes were paid for FY08, and delinquent taxes have been assessed. Upon motion by Peg Demars with a second by Todd Yando, the board voted affirmatively to abate taxes and all fees in an amount of \$14.76 for taxes in FY08 due to criteria #4 – Listers' error. No credit or refund due.

5. For Your Hair Only: Parcel ID# 90077. Equipment was removed from Morristown, but not taken off the 2006

and 2007 Grand Lists. No taxes have been paid. Upon motion by Peg Demars with a second by Rhoda Bedell, the board voted affirmatively to abate principal and all fees for FY07 in an amount of \$31.95; and to abate principal and all fees for FY08 in an amount of \$24.72 due to criteria #4 – Listers' error. No credit or refund due.

6. Phillips Holdings: Parcel ID# 90056. Equipment was removed from Morristown, but not taken off the 2008 Grand List. No taxes have been paid. Upon motion by Peg Demars with a second by Ed Wilson, the board voted affirmatively to abate taxes due in the amount of \$10.22 for FY09 due to criteria #4 – Listers' error. No credit or refund due.

7. Jonathan Vincelette: Parcel ID# 70084. In reconciling the delinquent tax account for Mr. Vincelette, an outstanding balance was found dating back to FY07. This was due to notices and payments crossing in the mail and interest continuing to be added in error. Upon motion by Peg Demars with a second by Siri Rooney, the board voted affirmatively to abate \$29.19 in taxes and fees to reconcile the Town Treasurer's tax account. No credit or refund due.

8. Pinecrest Park: parcel ID# 70026. This request for abatement was submitted by the Listers. Managers of Pinecrest Park LLC stated that the mobile home located at 16 Third Street that had been assessed for the 2008 Grand List had been removed and should not have been taxed. They requested abatement of \$145.78 in FY09 taxes based on criteria #4-Listers' error. The Listers testified that the described mobile home had been at the location on April 1, 2008, and therefore incurred a tax liability. Additionally, there is no mobile home bill of sale recorded in the land records of the Town to indicate that the mobile home had been sold or moved. Motion made by Peg Demars with a second by Todd Yando to abate \$145.78 in taxes for FY09 based on criteria \$4 – Listers error. Upon vote, request for abatement was denied.

9. Eleven accounts were brought to the board by the Town Treasurer. These small amounts due refer to notices and payments crossing in the mail on FY08 tax bills. (See attached.) Upon motion by Ed Wilson with a second by Peg Demars, the board voted affirmatively to abate \$4.79 in taxes and fees to reconcile the Town Treasurer's tax account.

The board reviewed the Town Clerk's changes to the voter checklist:

Additions from 01/01/2008 to 10/21/2008

Removals from 01/01/2008 to 10/21/2008

See attached.

The scheduling of poll workers was discussed for 11/04/08 General Election and Special Town Meeting.

With no other business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned upon motion at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Wilson, Clerk
Board of Civil Authority
Board of Abatement