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BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING of June 29, 2021

The Board of Abatement of the Town of Morristown, notified and warned, met in the Conference Room at the Municipal Office Building, 43 Portland Street in said town on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

BOA Members present:

Justice of the Peace: Brent Paine, David McAllister, Donald Blake, Julia Compagna, Monte Mason, Shap Smith, Shelley Nolan, Siri Rooney (phone) and Urban Martin.

Selectboard: Bob Beeman, Judy Bickford, Brian Kellogg, Gary Nolan

Listers: Charles Burnham, Duane Sprague

Clerk: Sara Haskins

Appellants & Guests: Vivian Billick (phone)

- The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.
- Sara Haskins made a correction to the agenda to approve the June 29, 2020 minutes.
- ***Upon motion by Shelley Nolan and seconded by Dave McAllister the minutes of the June 29, 2020 meeting were approved (16/0).***
- Pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535, to consider abatement of real estate and personal property taxes assessed.
 - **Vivian & Robin Billick – 462 Goeltz Rd (12153-06)**

Donnie Blake opened the hearing stating the name of the appellant, property location and parcel ID#. Sara Haskins administered the oath to the appellant Vivian Billick. Donnie Blake asked if anyone had a conflict of interest to disclose. Donnie Blake disclosed that he knows the Billicks and has done work for them. The Board did not find a conflict in this situation and allowed him to participate. A written abatement request form and narrative were presented asking for abatement of \$53.23 interest and \$425.88 penalty for the 2020-21 tax year. No statutory criteria for abatement was selected on the application. The appellants Vivian & Ron Billick live out of the country and participated via zoom. Ms. Billick shared testimony that they purchased the house in 1996 and that this is only the second time that they have been late paying their property taxes. They have not been able to cross the border due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it slipped their mind. As soon as she received the delinquent tax notice she mailed the payment for the principal amount due immediately on June 4, 2021. She is willing to pay the interest but is requesting that the penalty amount be abated as it was an honest mistake that they were late paying the bill. ***Shap Smith made a***

motion to go into deliberative session after all testimonies. Brian Kellogg seconded the motion. Motion passed (16/0).

- **Catalina Marketing Corporation – Business Personal Property (90604)**
Donnie Blake opened the hearing stating the name of the appellant, property location, parcel ID# and asked if anyone had a conflict of interest to disclose. Sara Haskins gave testimony that she submitted the abatement request for a total of \$153.65 for tax years 2016-17 and 2017-18 as the business personal property tax account has been inactive since 2018. The last payment received on the account was November 30, 2015. Sara continues to mail delinquent tax statements but they are returned due to lack of a forwarding mailing address. Duane Sprague confirmed that the account was inactivated in 2018.
- Sara Haskins presented a list of 36 accounts with small balances due of \$10.00 or less due to payments crossing in the mail and checks written for wrong amounts for a total amount abated of \$32.00 for the time period of June 25, 2020 to June 28, 2021. *Dave McAllister made a motion to accept the list of small abated amounts as presented. Shelley Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed (16/0).*

Shap Smith made a motion to go into deliberative session. Brian Kellogg seconded the motion. Motion passed (16/0).

Shap Smith made a motion to come out of deliberative session. Brian Kellogg seconded the motion. Motion passed (16/0).

Dave McAllister made a motion to honor the abatement as requested from Robin & Vivian Billick for FY 2020-21 for Parcel ID# 12153-06. Shelley Nolan seconded the motion. The Board discussed that even though they were sympathetic to the appellant's situation there was not a statutory criteria that allowed them to approve the abatement as requested. Motion failed. (0/16).

Gary Nolan made a motion to approve the abatement for Catalina Marketing Corporation Parcel ID#90604 for a total of \$79.08 for tax year 2016-2017 and a total of \$74.57 for tax year 2017-18 in which there was a manifest error or a mistake of the listers 24 VSA 1535(a). Judy Bickford seconded the motion. Motion passed (16/0).

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM upon motion by Dave McAllister and seconded by Urban Martin.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 1st day of July 2021
Sara Haskins, Clerk- Board of Abatement