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MINUTES: BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING of June 29, 2020

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 Monday, June 29, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

BOA Members present:

Justice of the Peace: Aimee Towne (phone), Donald Blake, Edward Wilson, Judy Bickford (phone), Monte Mason, Peg Demars, Rhoda Bedell, Ronald Stancliff, Sam Guy, Shap Smith (phone), Shelley Nolan, Siri Rooney (phone) and Urban Martin.

Selectboard: Brian Kellogg

Listers: Duane Sprague

Clerk: Sara Haskins

Appellants & Guests: none

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.
- There were no changes or additions.
- *Upon motion by Ron Stancliff and seconded by Peg Demars the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting were approved (16/0).*
- Pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535, to consider abatement of real estate and personal property taxes assessed.
 - **Joyce Behnke (#17009-06) 426 Campbell Rd**
Ed Wilson opened the hearing stating the name of the appellant, property location, parcel ID# and asking if anyone had a conflict of interest to disclose. The appellant Joyce Behnke lives out of state and was not present. A written abatement request form and narrative were presented asking for abatement of \$665.46 for the 2019-20 tax year due to taxes or charges in which there is a manifest error or a mistake by the Listers. Ms. Behnke received a change of appraisal notice in May 2018 stating the value of her property was going to be lowered from \$141,900 to \$119,400. The value was lowered on the 2018-19 tax bills but was raised again to the original value for the 2019-20 tax year. She requested a refund of \$665.46; the difference between the two tax bills. Duane Sprague presented testimony on behalf of the Listers office. The Listers agree with the statements made by the appellant and believe that she was over charged. There was a changing of staff in the Listers Office during that time and they are not sure how the new value did not save. Sara Haskins stated that she believes the

amount requested is the difference between the two tax bills and does not take into consideration the different tax rates for each year. She proposed abating \$560.86 which is the change in assessed value multiplied by the 2019-2020 nonresidential tax rate. *Aimee Towne made a motion to approve the abatement of Parcel ID#17009-06 for a total of \$560.86 for tax year 2019-2020 due to taxes or charges in which there was a manifest error or a mistake of the listers 24 VSA 1535(a). Peg Demars seconded the motion. Motion passed (16/0).*

- Sara Haskins presented a list of 18 accounts with small balances due of \$10.00 or less due to payments crossing in the mail and checks written for wrong amount for a total amount abated of \$16.13. Additionally, \$123.25 was abated on Parcel #16146 for 5879 Randolph Rd as ordered by the United States government. The property was seized and now owned by the USA making it tax exempt. *Shelley Nolan made a motion to accept the list of small abated amounts as presented. Peg Demars seconded the motion. Motion passed (16/0).*

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM upon motion by Donnie Blake and seconded by Sam Guy.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 30th day of June 2020
Sara Haskins, Clerk- Board of Abatement