



**BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 22, 2023**

Members: Darcie Abbene, Donald Blake, Ed Wilson, Jane Foster*, Judy Bickford, Laura Streets*, Leah Hollenberger, Monte Mason, Richard Craig, Sara Haskins, Shap Smith, Shelley Nolan, Urban Martin, Yvette Mason*, Duane Sprague, Charles Burnham

Aimee Towne, Chris Palermo, Don McDowell, Julia Compagna, Siri Rooney, Travis Sabtasao, Brian Yeaton

Appellants: Sean Dempsey*, Susan Lamare*

Guests:

**participating via Zoom*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ed Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Morrystown Municipal Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 01-12-2023

Motion made by Donnie Blake to approve the minutes of January 12, 2023. Motion seconded by Shelley Nolan. Motion carried. (16/0)

HEARINGS PURSUANT TO TITLE 24 V.S.A § 1535 TO CONSIDER ABATEMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES

1. Dwayne Lanphear-740 Fitzgerald Rd (13146)

Ed Wilson opened the hearing by stating the name of the appellant, property location, and parcel ID# of the appellant Dwayne Lanphear. Ed Wilson asked if anyone had a conflict of interest to disclose. Nobody did. A written abatement request form and narrative were presented asking for abatement of taxes for the 2022-2023 tax year due to taxes or charges in which there is a mistake of the listers (#4). The Appellant was not present but Ed Wilson shared the written correspondence between Terri Sabens, the Town Assessor, and Dwayne Lanphear. The State of Vermont did not turn off the Homestead Declaration flag even after the Lister's response. Therefore, Terri had to assess their main dwelling as a homestead rather than being enrolled as eligible farm buildings in Current Use as farm hand housing. Their assessment should have been \$133,800 and not the \$318,000 that they were taxed upon. The Listers confirmed the testimony and the mistake made by the State of Vermont. He requested an abatement of \$4,859.93 in principal for the tax year 2022-2023.

\$4,859.93 in principal for the tax year 2022-23 due to taxes or charges in which there is a manifest error or mistake of the listers pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535(a)(4). Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (16/0).

Parcel ID: 23215, Sean Dempsey, 83 Maple Street, Residential Property

Motion made by Shap Smith to approve the abatement request of Sean Dempsey -83 Maple Street for \$1,290.50 in penalty & interest for the tax year 2022-2023 due to taxes or charges in which there is manifest error pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535(a)(4). Motion seconded by Urban Martin. The Board discussed that even though they were sympathetic to the appellant's situation, there were no statutory criteria that allowed them to approve the abatement as requested. Motion failed (0/16).

Parcel ID: 23241-0155, Estate of Gary Michael Poff Trust, 94 Mansfield Ave, Residential Property

Motion made by Shap Smith to approve the abatement request of the Estate of Gary Michael Poff Trust, 94 Mansfield Ave for \$189.57 in penalty & interest for the tax year 2022-2023 due to taxes or charges of persons who have died insolvent pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535(a)(1). Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. The Board discussed that even though they were sympathetic to the appellant's situation, there were no statutory criteria that allowed them to approve the abatement as requested. Motion failed (0/16).

Motion made by Shap Smith to come out of the deliberative session. Motion seconded by Urban Martin. Motion carried (16/0).

ADJOURN

Motion made by Shap Smith to adjourn. Motion seconded by Judy Bickford. Motion carried. (16/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm
Submitted and filed this June 27, 2023.
Sara Haskins, Clerk

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Board of Abatement meeting.