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MINUTES: BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING

The Board of Civil Authority of the Town of Morristown, notified and warned, met in the Upstairs Conference Room at the Municipal Office Building, 43 Portland Street in said town on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 5:00 P.M.

BCA Members present: J Bickford, D Blake, J Compagna, M Demars, F Favreau, M Mason, S Nolan, S Rooney, R Stancliff, E Wilson, B Kellogg and S Haskins, Clerk

Listers present: C McArthur and R Tomlinson

Appellants present: E Randall, M Randall, J Randall, J Newton, K Newton

- The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.
- There were no changes and additions to the posted agenda.
- Upon motion, Francis Favreau was elected unanimously as Chair of the Board.
Upon motion, Ed Wilson was elected unanimously as Vice-Chair of the Board.
- Upon motion, the minutes of February 2, 2017 were approved as presented.
- The BCA reviewed the list of names to post on the Town website of Justices of the Peace willing to serve for civil marriages.
- Upon motion, the BCA authorized the Town Clerk to send out challenge letters on their behalf.
- The BCA reviewed changes made to the voter checklist since the 2017 Town Meeting. There were 103 additions, 6 deletions and no challenges. There were five people that did same day registration at the floor meeting of Town Meeting and four people that did same day registration at the Australian ballot. The Town Clerk reminded the Board of the Biennial Purge to be completed by Sept. 15, 2017. They requested that the Town Clerk's office prepare lists of the voters to review at a meeting later this summer.
- Pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535, to consider abatement of real estate and personal property taxes assessed.
 - 5:20 PM – Eleanor & Marvin Randall (21005) Letter of request was presented to the Board and Mr. & Mrs Randall were present. Hearing requested by property owners, per letter (attached) seeking abatement for FY1516 and FY1617 taxes

plus penalty and interest for the property they acquired at 182 Upper Main Street at tax sale. The Randall's presented a timeline of events of how they acquired the property and the \$30,000 improvements they made to clean up the building since they obtained title to it on January 12, 2017. They testified that they were told that there was no additional taxes due on the property until they became the owners after the redemption period. They questioned where the additional funds went that were paid to the attorney above all delinquent taxes and legal fees and asked that the additional funds be used toward the delinquent property taxes, interest and penalties during the redemption period and/or return to them to put towards the cleanup of the property.

The Listers testified that the property was assessed in FY1516 and 1617 by the Town at \$107,300 of which the buildings value was at \$49,500 and the land was valued at \$57,800. They testified that no requests were made during the redemption period to reassess the property as that would have had to come from the owner on record which was Willam Martin. Since the Randall's officially obtained the property they have since requested a reassessment and the Listers stated that the value for the FY1718 grand list will be \$20,400 on this parcel which will be combined with their additional property at 28 Court Street.

The board went into deliberative session. After coming out, a motion was made and approved to recess this request until more details could be obtained. The BCA instructed Clerk Haskins to contact Angela Ross, the attorney who conducted the tax sale, and Mary Ann Wilson, the previous Delinquent Tax Collector, and ask them to submit in writing whether or not the Randall's were informed that they would be responsible for the taxes during the redemption period if they were to obtain the property and where the additional funds above what was paid to the Town for the delinquent taxes and legal fees were dispersed.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM upon motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Haskins, Clerk- Board of Civil Authority