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MINUTES: BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING

The Board of Civil Authority of the Town of Morristown met in the Conference Room at the Municipal Office Building, 43 Portland Street in said town on **Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.**

BCA Members present: R Bedell, D Blake, M Demars, E Dodge, F Favreau, P Griswold, C Hindes, S Leach, B Paine, S Rooney, E Wilson, B Kellogg, Joni Lanphear and M A Wilson, Clerk

Listers present: Duane Sprague

Appellants present: Michael Diender and Connie LaBree

1. Meeting opened at 5:30 PM by Chairman Favreau
2. There were no changes or additions to the posted agenda
3. Term of BCA members - 2/1/2015 to 1/31/2017

Welcome back to all members re-elected and to Paul G. who was voted back to the board.

Thanks were extended to Theresa Breault for decades of service as a Justice of the Peace and board member.

4. Upon motion, Francis Favreau was re-elected Chairperson until 1/31/2017.
5. Minutes of 9/9/2014 were approved upon motion
6. Pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A § 1535, the board considered abatement of real estate and personal property taxes assessed.
 - a. Michael and Debra Diender (#11051): Letter of request was read asking for abatement due to the loss of the home property by fire on September 14, 2014. After testimony by appellant and listers, the board debated the facts. Upon motion by B. Kellogg with a second by M. Demars, the board voted affirmatively to abate \$1411.22 of FY15 town taxes under abatement criteria #5 – property destroyed during the tax year. The credit will be applied to the November 15, 2014 first installment of Municipal taxes. The board did not abate any of the education taxes.
 - b. Nancy Ellen Simon Palmer (#16146): Letter of request was read. Appellant was not present. The property is a second home deeded to Ms. Palmer by her mother, now deceased. Expenses of the property have become burdensome, and the abatement is for tax relief from the 2014-15 property taxes. B. Kellogg moved to abate \$4,122.32 under criteria #3 – taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes. Motion seconded by M. Demars. Upon vote, the motion failed. The board was sympathetic to the financial situation of Ms. Palmer, and suggested that she contact the listers' office before April 1, 2015 to discuss the possibility of reducing the assessed value of the property, thus reducing future taxes.
 - c. Connie LaBree (#08176): Letter of request was read asking for abatement due to the loss of the property by fire on December 1, 2014. After testimony by appellant and listers, the board debated the facts. Upon motion by E. Wilson with a second by S. Leach, the board voted affirmatively to abate under criteria #5 - property destroyed during the tax year, the amount of \$583.00 of the FY15 town taxes. The board did not abate any of the education taxes. Because the taxes have been prepaid, the Town will issue a refund.

- d. Sabrina Compagna (#90059): Appellant was not present. This bakery and café went out of business. Upon motion by M. Demars with a second by R. Bedell, the board voted affirmatively to abate \$11.34 of principal, \$2.16 interest, \$.90 penalty, and \$6.49 postage for \$20.89 of the FY14 tax bill under criteria #5 – property lost during the tax year.
7. Upon motion, the BCA voted to designate the official polling places and hours for 2015.
 - a. Annual meeting for town and school – PA gym from 9AM until finished
 - b. Australian ballot voting for town and school meetings– Morristown Municipal Bldg from 8AM to 7PM
 - c. Australian ballot voting for state and federal elections – Morristown Municipal Bldg from 7AM to 7PM
8. The board agreed to allow names and addresses of JP's to be posted to the town website and to post a list of JP's willing to serve for civil marriages.
9. Poll workers for Annual Town and School District Meetings at the PA gym and Municipal Bldg. were scheduled.
10. Reviewed changes to the Voter Checklist from 9/9/2014 – additions, deletions and challenges.
11. Reminded of the Biennial Purge to be completed by Sept. 1, 2015.
12. Under other business, J. Compagna asked for permission to post to Front Porch Forum and to submit a letter to the Editor of News & Citizen to encourage participation in Annual Town and School District meetings. Permission granted.
13. With no other business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM upon motion.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Wilson

Mary Ann Wilson, Clerk
Board of Civil Authority