

Board of Abatement December 13, 2021

Minutes

The Board of Abatement met on the 13th day of December, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Twitchell Building, 100 Old School Street in South Londonderry.

Schedule (Appellants can attend in person or via phone 802 824 3356 ext 101. All documentation must be provided to the Board of Abatement at the time of hearing.)

Attendance in person: Debbie O'Leary, Melvin Twitchell, Julie Charlton, Helena Wu, Tina Labeau, Kelly Pajala, Tom Cavanagh, Sandra Clark, Bonnie Cobb, Maureen Cronin

Attendance via phone: Sarah Mentzell, Adam Cooley, Mario Pannone

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Tina Labeau nominated Kelly Pajala to be chair of the Board of Abatement. Nominations were closed. The Board voted to have Kelly Pajala be Chair.

Melvin Twitchell made a motion to adopt the VLCT Model Board of Abatement Rules of Procedure. Julie Charlton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appellant: Sarah Mentzell & Adam Cooley parcel ID 110033, 4323 Vt Rt 11

Appointed Time: 5:30

Sarah Mentzell and Adam Cooley joined the meeting via phone. The Board introduced themselves. Sarah presented the following information: Sarah is not working right now on the advice of her doctor because of a heart condition. They are living off Adam's income. They are claiming an inability to pay as their reason for an abatement request. They did not get their original bill because of confusion and difficulty getting their mail. The abatement amount requested is \$1874.00. Not requesting abatement of penalty and interest. They don't have a reliable vehicle which contributes to the difficulty with getting their mail. Adam can only check the mail on his days off from work. They have both a mailbox at their house and a PO Box at the Londonderry post office. The Board asked what the household income and expenses are. Monthly income is \$1748.00. Monthly expenses include car payment, insurance, electricity, oil, internet, wood heat, cell phone. The Board asked about the purchase of the home and if their real estate attorney discussed property taxes at the time of closing. Sarah said the house was purchased with an inheritance during the pandemic. They never signed any paperwork in person and their attorney did not discuss property taxes with them at closing.

Appellant: Kristen & Mario Pannone parcel ID 104037, 5599 Vt Rt 100

Appointed Time: 5:50

Mario Pannone spoke to the board on the phone. The Board introduced themselves. Mario stated that his family moved to Florida in early June. He has kidney failure, is on the transplant list for a kidney and is not working because of his health. He says he was having his mail forwarded from Vermont to Florida. He said he did not get the original bill but did get the

delinquent tax bill. He said he tried to call the Town office several times to update his mailing address but was never successful. He says his reason for requesting an abatement is an inability to pay and he is only requesting that the interest and penalty for his late payment be abated. The Board asked how long he has owned the property. Mario stated he has owned the property for 3 or 4 years. The Board asked if he had a permanent forward put on his Vermont mailing address. He said yes and was told it would be good for a year. Melvin Twitchell said mail forwarding needs to be renewed every 6 months. Mario stated mistakes were made, he is just looking for some help with the penalty and interest.

The Board went into deliberative session until the next appointment time. The Board came out of deliberative session. Melvin Twitchell made a motion to deny the abatement request of Mario & Kristen Pannone. Julie Charlton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention.

Appellant: Charles & Sue Parks parcel ID 062018.114, 231 Adams Drive  
Appointed Time: 6:10

The Appellant did not appear in person or via phone. The Board considered the abatement request based on the Information form for Tax Abatement Appeals and emails between the Town Clerk and Charles Parks dated October 21, 22 and 24<sup>th</sup> 2021. Tom Cavanagh made a motion to deny the abatement request of Charles and Sue Parks. Melvin seconded the motion. The motion passed with 9 yes and 1 abstention.

The Board went into deliberative session to discuss Sarah Mentzell and Adam Cooley's appeal. The Board came out of deliberative session. Kelly Pajala made a motion to deny the request to abate \$1,874 in property taxes but to abate the penalty and interest on the late payment. There was no second. Kelly withdrew her motion. Julie Charlton made a motion to deny the request for abatement. Melvin Twitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed with 9 yes and 1 abstention.

Tom Cavanagh made a motion to adjourn at 6:45. Julie Charlton seconded the motion. The motion passed.