

**TOWN OF SHELBURNE
BOARD OF ABATEMENT
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 5, 2024**

DRAFT 02/05/24

***Hybrid meeting**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Baker (Chair); David Webster, Lee Suskin, Bill Deming, Susan Bowen, Peggy Day, Jennifer Leopold, Mike Donohue (via Zoom), Randy Rowland, Joan Lenes, Peter Gadue, Denis Barton, Judy Rosenstreich.

ADMINISTRATION: Diana Vachon, Town Clerk; BettyJean Bogue Finance Assistant/Utilities Administrator.

APPELLANT(S): Not Present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Baker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. There were no changes to the agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES

May 15, 2023

MOTION by Peggy Day to approve the minutes of 5/15/23 as presented, SECOND by Susan Bowen. DISCUSSION: None. VOTING: 11-1-0 motion carried. Peter Gadue abstained.

ABATEMENT REQUEST

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR/UTILITIES ADMINISTRATOR

In a memorandum dated January 10, 2024, BettyJean Bogue, Finance Assistant/Utilities Administrator for the Town of Shelburne, calculated a recommended refund amount based on the difference between the non-homestead rate and the homestead rate and the late filing penalty. The basis for the abatement request: Is a series of mistakes by the homeowners, the State, and the Town. Mr. & Mrs. Passalacqua own two properties in Shelburne. They mistakenly applied for Homestead on the wrong property (SPAN: 582-183-11454, 536 Bostwick Rd), realized it after 10/16/23, and resent for Homestead on the correct parcel (SPAN: 582-183-11103, 57 Littlefield Dr.) The next mistake was by The VT Department of Taxes which used the refiled date instead of the original filing date. They denied the homestead claim and charged the homeowner a late filing fee. The Town contacted VT Tax Department in December to correct the error, but did not hear back. The next mistake was the Town did not follow up with the State before 12/31/23. Town

cannot change the Grand List after 12/31/23. The total amount requested to be waived is \$613.63. This will abate the difference between the non-homestead rate and the homestead rate for their primary residence at 57 Littlefield Dr. plus the late filing penalty.

Mr. & Mrs. Passalacqua agreed with the suggested tax abatement amount in an email dated February 2, 2024.

After some discussion and clarifying questions. Nancy Baker thanked Ms. Bogue for coming.

MOTION At 7:18 PM by Denis Barton to abate the amount of \$613.63 as presented by Ms. Bogue. SECOND by Peggy Day. VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Peggy Day to adjourn. SECOND by Susan Bowen VOTING: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Diana Vachon, Town Clerk