

BOARD OF ABATEMENT
MARTIN MEMORIAL HALL
5259 US ROUTE 5
ASCUTNEY, VERMONT
JUNE 14, 2022

PRESENT:

Mike Todd, Paul Tillman, Steve Hier, Julie Lannen, Dallas Carey, AnnMarie Christianson, Mike Stankevich, Ginger Wimberg, Dave Fuller, Sean Whalen, Kelly O'Brien, Flo-Ann Dango

APPELLANT:

Paul Fredella

ABSENT:

Wendy Smith, John Arrison, Lynn Esty

Chair Mike Stankevich opened the hearing at 7:03 pm.

Paul Fredella- #070104, 4192 Route 106

Mike Stankevich read the letter from Paul Fredella to the board. Within the letter Paul explained the history of the property with contamination due to hydraulic fluid. He has spent significant time and money to get this property ready for his landscaping business. Paul did explain that he will be receiving a grant from the State of Vermont to help cover the cost of the cleanup. During this time Paul has fallen behind on his tax payments and is hoping the BOA would consider helping him by abating some taxes.

Amount requested for abatement -\$12,000.

Paul has owned his landscaping business for 38 years. He stated he could not secure jobs during the Covid Pandemic and has struggled to pay taxes. Paul stated he will be receiving a grant in the amount of \$31,730.00 in July to cover the cost of epoxy the cement pad. This will contain the contamination and he will be able to utilize the building. There is no contamination in the circumference of the building.

Steve Hier asked if he grieved his property assessment with the Listers and if not strongly recommends that he start that process.

Sean Whalen made a motion to deny request, Kelly O'Brien seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Steve Hier suggested for Paul to file a grievance with the Listers to get the true value of the property and then reapply for an abatement.

Flo-Ann Dango, Town Clerk stated that the motion needs to have a reason.

Paul Tillman requested to see the State Statue for Denial.

Sean Whalen withdrew his motion to deny request for abatement. Kelly O'Brien withdrew her second.

Mike Todd made a motion to deny abatement of taxes reason being #3. Appellant did not present criteria acceptable to the Board of Abatement.

Kelly O'Brien seconded the motion.

Vote was in the affirmative. Motion passed; abatement denied.

Paul Tillman stated he feels the Tax Collector should be present at the Board of Abatement Hearings.

Some members of the board would like to view the Abatement request packet prior to the hearing so they could be better prepared.

Steve Hier moved to request the Abatement request form and evidence to be mailed along with the notice of meeting. Mike Todd seconded the motion.

Chairperson Mike stated he would like for Flo-Ann to get legal advice regarding this request.

Paul Tillman would like to also have a motion for the Delinquent Tax Collector to be present for the hearings. Sean Whalen felt that if the information is received in advance there should be no need for the Delinquent Tax Collector to be present.

Dave Fuller made a motion to table the request for the Abatement Hearing evidence to be mailed. Mike Todd seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion to table passed

Steve Hier moved that the BOA request the Delinquent Tax Collector attend BOA meetings, seconded by Mike Todd.

Steve Hier Moved to table that motion until the previously table motion has been decided.

Mike Todd seconded

The Vote was unanimous, motion passed.

ANNUAL ABATEMENTS OF TAX BALANCES UNDER \$5.00 PER SELECTBOARD RESOLUTION

Steve Hier motioned to take no action on Abatements of Tax Balances \$5.00 or less as unable to legitimately abate. Paul Tillman seconded the motion.

Discussion: This is a Select Board policy and should be approved by the Select Board.

Sean Whalen opposed the motion on principal and would like to approve to abate.

Steve Hier explained it did not fit any criteria for reason of Abatement and would like to remove it from the Board of Abatement tasks.

Vote was in the affirmative with one nay.

Paul Tillman made a motion to close the BOA Hearing, Ginger Wimberg seconded the motion.

Vote was unanimous, hearing ended 8:12 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Marion J. Ballam
Deputy Clerk