

TOWN OF ESSEX
BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY
Thursday, June 17, 2021

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (JP), SELECTBOARD (SB) AND OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

In-Person attendees: Chair Dawn Hill-Fleury, JP/SB; Diane Clemens, JP; Linda Myers, JP; Bernard Couture, JP; Anthony Barr, JP; Rep. Alyssa Black, JP; Tracey Delphia, JP/SB, Ryan McLaren, JP; Susan McNamara-Hill, Clerk/Treasurer;

Remote attendees: Brian Shelden, JP; Karen Lemnah, Assessor.

Ms. Hill-Fleury called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Board of Abatement:

Application and decision regarding request for abatement from Martin Silverstrim due to error in 2020 taxes.

Susan McNamara-Hill explained that Mr. Silverstrim was notified by the Veteran's Administration that he qualified for the veteran's exemption on his tax assessment for 2020. The exemption was not put on his taxes and the request is for an abatement of the difference between what Mr. Silverstrim paid and what he would have paid with the exemption (\$863.12). The request should be considered under VSA 24 §1535(a)(4) "Taxes in which there is a manifest error or a mistake of the listers."

Karen Lemnah explained that she did receive the notification about the Veteran's exemption but that there needed to be verification of residency before the exemption could be applied to the tax assessment. Ms. Lemnah said that in the end, after she was able to verify that 50 Catella Road was Mr. Silverstrim's residence, the exemption did not get applied to the 2020 tax assessment as it should have and that this is a mistake of the assessor.

MOTION by Bernie Couture, **SECOND** by Linda Myers to approve the abatement of the 2020 taxes in the amount of \$863.12 per VSA 24 §1535(a)(4) "Taxes in which there is a manifest error or a mistake of the listers."

VOTING: all ayes, motion carried.

Board of Civil Authority:

Ms. McNamara-Hill explained that state statute requires the BCA to review and challenge voters every odd year.

Ms. McNamara-Hill reviewed the process that is followed in the clerk's office to challenge voters on an on-going basis (using property transfers, death records, returned mail). She said she is happy to continue working on keeping the checklist up to date but wanted to give the BCA an opportunity to review the checklist if they wish.

After discussing the matter, the consensus was that Ms. McNamara-Hill should continue what she is doing and those members that want to review the checklist themselves will request a copy from the clerk's office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan McNamara-Hill
Susan McNamara-Hill, Clerk