

Minutes
Board of Assessor's Meeting
February 22, 2011

Members Present: Eugene Reed and John McSorley.

Member Excused: Jason Neuman

Guests: Randall Hale

Others: Heidi Seaverns.

7:00 PM Chairman McSorley called the meeting to order.

Ms. Seaverns introduced Mr. Randall Hale to the Board and explained that he was the taxpayer that had requested an abatement on interest on 1st issue tax bill. Mr. Hale then explained that he wanted to appear before the Board since he was asking for an interest abatement. He explained that he had mailed his 1st issue tax payment but it had never been received by the Tax Collector. Mr. Reed asked if he realized that his balance in the account had not gone down. Mr. Hale replied that this account has very little activity and he just never checked. He went on to say he had been out of state for an extended time with a sick family member and then was out of the country on a trip. He stated he never received notice that bill had not been paid until he returned home last week. Members then reviewed Mr. Hale's letter & supporting documentation. Ms. Seaverns stated this was the fourth request for this type of waiver in as many meetings. Both Chair McSorley & Mr. Reed stated that it is the taxpayer's responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. Mr. Reed suggested three ways to verify your payment has been received-pay in person, mail in your payment with the second part of the bill, and your cancelled check (verification from bank check has been paid). He also suggested calling the Tax Collector to verify payment. Both Mr. Reed & Chair McSorley said they sympathized with Mr. Hale's situation, but the law is very clear in that it is the taxpayer's responsibility to insure taxes have been paid. Mr. Hale thanked the Board for their time. Mr. Hale then brought up property value. Ms. Seaverns gave Mr. Hale an abatement application if he disputed his value to complete & return by March 1, 2011. Mr. Hale then left the meeting.

Ms. Seaverns requested the Board formally act on Mr. Hale's request for consistency.

Motion: McSorley, second Reed to deny request for waiver of interest.

Vote: 2-0 in favor. Ms. Seaverns will send the taxpayer a letter confirming the Board's action.

The Board addressed the signature file.

Members signed the Intent to Cut for Map 4 Lot 10 & 14 (bond has been posted) and the Intent to Cut for Map 17 Lot 30 for tax year 2011 (taxes current).

Members signed the abatement form for Map 38 Lot 31, which is the case in Rockingham Superior Court. This case was discussed & resolved on January 24, 2011. Ms. Seaverns reminded members that this was not an agreement of value, simply a means to end litigation.

Motion: McSorley, second Reed to approve the abatement in the amount of \$ 8.05 for Map 42 Lot 19-5 based on review and Avitar's recommendation.

Vote: 2-0 in favor. Ms. Seaverns will forward the information to the Selectmen for eventual payment to the taxpayer.

The Board addressed the correspondence file.

Members reviewed and signed off on an invoice from Avitar Associates for January work in the amount of \$ 1094.46. This reflects work on the case before BTLA as well as outstanding abatements for 2010.

Members reviewed and signed off on an invoice for \$ 1400 from Attorney Teague for services on the case in Rockingham Superior Court.

Ms. Seaverns then informed the Board about the proposal from the UNH Technology Center to digitize the Town's maps at no cost. Ms. Seaverns explained she would be speaking with our mapping company to see if it would be the same project as proposed by them. If so, the warrant article may be tabled on the floor at Town Meeting.

Next regularly scheduled meeting for the Board is March 7, 2011.

Having no further business,

7:40 PM **Motion** McSorley, second Reed to adjourn.

Vote: 2-0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Seaverns

Accepted as written
3/7/11