

TOWN OF CHESTER
Board of Tax Abatement
Board of Civil Authority
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2022

PRESENT: Deborah Aldrich, Heather Chase, Patricia Budnick, Robert Nied, Leigh L. Dakin, Colleen Truax, Catherine Hasbrouck, Valerie Pantorno, Kenneth Barrett, Arne Jonynas, Kathy Pellett, Lee Gustafson, Cheryl LeClair, Amie O'Brien

VISITORS: None

1. ABATEMENT: JUDITH MOSES 165 CUMMINGS ROAD

Chair Heather Chase explained there is a quorum with 11 people from the Board of Tax Abatement in attendance. The applicant was not present at the meeting. Heather Chase read the Oath to the board, and no one disclosed any conflicts of interest or ex parte communication. The applicant was sent the information regarding the meeting including the agenda and all materials included in the packet.

2. DELIBERATIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Leigh Dakin to enter Deliberative Session. Seconded by Patricia Budnick. The board entered Deliberative Session at 6:07 p.m.

A motion was made by Arne Jonynas to exit Deliberative Session. Seconded by Kathy Pellett. The board exited Deliberative Session at 6:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Kathy Pellett to deny the Abatement request submitted by Melanie Mesmer on behalf of Judith Moses for the reason of taxes or charges of persons who have died insolvent. 24 V.S.A. § 1535(a)(1). Seconded by Valerie Pantoro. The motion passed.

Leigh Dakin stated she is concerned there should be more education about abatement and the program Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (VHAP) being offered by the state. A notice was mailed to Judith Moses explaining the abatement process. She was also mailed a flyer with information about the VHAP program. The Notice of Decision will explain to Judith Moses the Town Office will assist her with the application process for VHAP. The board would like her to apply for this program and make a payment arrangement with Town Manager, Julie Hance, to take advantage of the town's repayment program. Explain to the applicant they can reapply for an abatement. The

board suggests reapplying under financial circumstances with the submission of financial information. Heather Chase and Amie O'Brien will review what the decision notice must include.

3. REDISTRICTING UPDATE

The Board of Civil Authority discussed the changes to the town district. The district has been changed and we will no longer be in the same district as Andover. Deborah Aldrich and Heather Chase testified to the Government Operations Committee to oppose the changes, but it passed anyway. The change applies to Representatives, not Senators. The town is getting a new tabulator Tuesday, April 26, 2022. There will be a training held that morning for anyone that would like to attend.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

None

5. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Kathy Pellett to adjourn. Seconded by Leigh Dakin. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.