

TOWN OF WESTON
Board of Abatement Hearing Minutes
February 9, 2021 6:15 pm - VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Wayne Granquist (Chair), Kim Seymour (Clerk), Greg Carroll, Bruce Downer, Ann Fuji'i, Charles "Tim" Goodwin, Dan Hanenberg, Bill Hoyt, Jim Linville

ABSENT: Denis Benson, Shirley Knowlton

PUBLIC: Merrill Bent (Town Attorney)

1. Open Meeting was reconvened at 6:18 pm by the Chair
2. No requested changes to the agenda
3. Updates on Aldrich properties located at • 7 Mill Rd • 630 Main St • 631 Main St:

A recap was given by the Chair with the decision by the BOA to reach out to the town attorney, Merrill Bent. Ms. Bent provided an update on the property sales and the status of the closings which have been moved to the week of February 15th. Per her email exchange with Bill Dakin, negotiations have not been completed with all the creditors and only the secured creditors will be paid from the proceeds of the property sales. They are working with the IRS to reduce the outstanding balance of (+/- \$90,000); VT Tax Department willing to make a minor adjustment to the balance of +/- \$122,000; and the 3rd mortgage holder willing to take less than the outstanding balance. People's United, SBA, etc. had no input yet. Mr. Dakin requested the BOA at least abate the interest due to Weston (about \$15,500) on the delinquent taxes. Ms. Bent suggested that the BOA get back to Ms. Aldrich and Mr. Dakin once all the other negotiations are completed.

Mr. Linville pointed out that if the BOA abated any of the delinquent amounts it would be a double hit to the local people whose unsecured debts wouldn't be paid and the loss of the revenue to the town of the interest, etc., would impact the tax rate. The Chair reviewed the primary reasons under which the BOA could decide to abate:

- "(1) When a taxpayer has died and has left no money or assets;
- (2) When a taxpayer has moved out of state;
- (3) When a taxpayer is unable to pay their taxes, interest and collection fees;
- (4) When there has been a manifest error or a mistake of the Listers;
- (5) When the real or personal property that is the subject of the tax has been lost or destroyed..."

Based on the guidelines for abatement, the BOA could abate taxes, penalty and interest if there weren't any money to pay the debts (#3), but in this case that doesn't appear to be the case since the properties are being sold for close to the amount of the secured creditors. Discussion continued regarding what amount could be paid based on the debt balances given to the BOA in November. Ms. Bent suggested that she would reach back out to Mr. Dakin and requested a closing statement that would give the BOA the final amounts due after negotiations. BOA members agreed to have her proceed with this request.

4. Minutes for July 28, 2020 and January 26, 2021: Jim Linville made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Bill Hoyt. Minutes approved unanimously.
5. With nothing further to discuss, a motion was made by Charles “Tim” Goodwin with a second by Ann Fuji’i to adjourn the open meeting and to reconvene on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Unanimously approved.
6. Open Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Meeting was held on ZOOM with call in instructions:

Meeting ID: 848 0299 8964 Passcode: 733587 Phone: (646) 558 8656 US (NY)

OR

Email the Town Clerk (clerk@westonvt.org) for a link to join via computer

Minutes reviewed at BOA meeting on February 16, 2021. Motion was made by Jim Linville to approve minutes with second by Charles “Tim” Goodwin. Minutes unanimously approved.

Submitted by:

SS:\\ Kim Seymour
Kim Seymour, BOA Clerk