

Board of Abatement

May 25, 2017

Present: Tony Caparis, Suzanne Butterfield, Kathie Burns, Beth Dawley, Cathy Brown, Jim Shands, Joanne Mills, Linda Lunna and Mark Pelletier

Appellants: Drew and Rebecca Smith

Public: Richard Lunna

The meeting came to order at 7:05 PM. Mark Pelletier served as Chair. The Smiths advised the Board that they are only able to use 2 floors of their house and that the property has not functioned as a working business since 2011. They don't feel they should have to pay taxes on property they can't use and noted that they had always paid their taxes on time prior to the flood.

Tony Caparis questioned if the Listers had previously lowered the assessment due to the damage received from flooding. Linda Lunna spoke for the Listers and said that they had removed the value of the campsites. The property was assessed for \$400,900 prior to the flood and lowered to \$288,600 due to the damage. At that time a notice of change of appraisal was mailed out and the Smiths had the opportunity to grieve that assessment. Rebecca Smith pointed out that currently only 1 of their septic systems is working and that they were unfamiliar with the grievance process.

Suzanne wondered if they had ever broken down the value between the business use of the property and the residential use. The Smiths thought that perhaps their bookkeeper had done so but they were not aware of the numbers. They also pointed out that the lower level of their house contained the showers and bathrooms used by the campers and hasn't been used since the flood. They were concerned about the late fees which had been added when they had pointed out that they were unable to pay their taxes on time.

Mark Pelletier recused himself from the decision.

Jim Shands moved that the Smiths be responsible for payment of the taxes due. Seconded and approved.

Jim Shands moved that the Smiths be responsible for payment of the late fees due. Seconded and approved.

Jim Shands moved that the Board abate the interest due. Seconded and approved. The Board will abate interest in the amount of \$7,899.38.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Cathy Brown, Town Clerk