

Minutes of the Board of Abatement
Monday September 16, 2024
28 North Main Street and via zoom

Attendance: Kane Sweeney, Alyssa Johnson, Ian Shea, Karen Petrovic, Roger Clapp, Liz Schlegel, Mary Woodruff, Linda Gravell, Amanda McKay, Steve Karcher, Kane Sweeney, Roger Clapp, Ian Shea, Mike Bard

Public Attendance: Clark Ferris

ZOOM: Katrina VanTyne, Jim Adams

L. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Approve Agenda: R. Clapp moved to approve the agenda. K. Sweeney seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously

Public: none

Clark Ferris – 33 North Main Street:

L. Schlegel opened the hearing stating the applicant's name of Clark Ferris with a property address of 33 North Main Street and Parcel ID 900-0033-V

Liz administered the following oath; "Under the pains and penalties of perjury, do you solemnly swear that the evidence you give in the cause under consideration shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" C. Ferris confirmed "I do".

There were no disclosed conflict of interest in this hearing.

Testimony from C. Ferris:

His paperwork has been prepared using Legal Aid through Veteran's Affairs.

The categories being asked for consideration are a.) Taxes in which there is a manifest error b.) Taxes in which there is a mistake of the listers. C.) Taxes or charges upon bases of real or personal property loss or destroyed during the tax year.

C. Ferris stated his life partner Terri Christie passed away in April of 2023, before the July 2023 flood.

He worked to get the property changed over to his name following her passing

He is now caught up on the delinquent water and sewer invoices

The house is currently unlivable without means to repair or occupy

The property is in the process of a FEMA buyout

C. Ferris stated the house is no longer worth what it was pre flood

Questions from the Board:

R. Clapp asked if rent has been paid from tenants – not since the July 2023

If the FEMA buyout is approved the property will then be transferred to the Town of Waterbury and will be forever green space.

There is a foreclosure in process at this time.

Deliberative Session: Discussion followed regarding the definition of a manifest error and whether this board has the ability to reduce the assessed value of the property.

S. Karcher moved to abate the 2024 tax bill on the basis of real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year. K. Sweeney seconded the motion. Discussion followed. A vote was held and passed

11-1 with an abstention. S. Karcher made a motion to refund the mortgage company. A. McKay seconded the motion. Discussion followed. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

Jack Exe / Sally Ashak – 40 Union Street:

L. Schlegel opened the hearing by stating the property owner's names, Jack Exe and Sally Ashak with a the address of 40 Union Street with a Parcel ID of 958-0040-V

No one was present to speak to this abatement request

There were no disclosed conflict of interest in this hearing

The property was occupied until the July 2023 when the tenant moved out following that flood.

L. Schlegel closed the hearing and moved into deliberative session

R. Clapp moved to abate the 2024 tax bill on the basis of real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year. M. Bard seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

K. Sweeney moved to refund for first installment, \$1,880.99 to the property owners. A. McKay seconded the motion, a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: K. Sweeney moved to adjourn which was seconded by L. Gravell. A vote was held and passed unanimously.