

Board of Civil Authority
Meeting September 3, 2015
Town Hall/5:00 PM

Members present; Betty Lockerby-Justice of the Peace, Al Bertram-Justice of the Peace, Cathy Tudhope-Justice of the Peace, Rustam Spaulding-Selectmen, Steve Stata-Selectmen, Michele Murray-Town Clerk

Others present; Jennifer Rafferty, Andrea Parker, Debbie Spaulding-Lister, Louise Koss-Lister, Deb Daly-Lister, Kris Luce

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM on September 3, 2015 by Chair-Betty Lockerby.

1. 1. Determine Tax Appeal-Decision

Betty Lockerby read from the handout that was provided to all in reference to the purpose of the meeting: Read as follows; this meeting is to decide whether the Board of Listers mailing was done as statutorily required, and if the taxpayer can provide sufficient proof that it was **not** done properly.

Debbie Spaulding-Lister had discussion; Procedure was followed-records of notice were posted in five (5) locations. A change of appraisal letter was sent. Legal Notice posting in the Islander newspaper. Certificate of mailing of all change of appraisal letters, received by the post office, verified and dated. Discussion with Secretary of State Office and Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns on procedure.

Jennifer Rafferty had discussion; informed by Bill Tobin from State of Vermont Department of Taxes they have a right to appeal at this meeting.

Jennifer read from her letter submitted to the Town Clerk; (reads as follows) August 21, 2015. We would very much appreciate the opportunity to grieve our tax bill. We never received notice of the change in our property's appraised value or the time and place that the listers were hearing grievances. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Kris Luce had discussion; question, is it the discession of the BCA to decide. Answer, yes.

Lousie Koss had discussion; the purpose of this meeting is to determine rather to move forward to a hearing to grieve.

Jennifer Rafferty had discussion; were the listers surprised that they (Jennifer & Andrea) did not grieve their taxes. Answer, yes.

They do not know anything about the grievance process, did not see the notice posting and did not expect their taxes to triple. Is requesting due process and requesting that the BCA use good judgement in the decision.

Stata had discussion; will this process set a presidence for others to grieve taxes at any time.

Louise Koss had discussion; suggests if a decision to allow grievance is made, then a very limited circumstance/special stipulations/special restrictions be stipulated in the process of the decision (if decision is yes).

Cathy Tudhope had discussion; suggests unusual circumstances are expressed in the decision. Also, requests to know what has been changed to date with the assessment. Debbie Spaulding answered; square footage and water front footage was adjusted per the Select Board.

Betty Lockerby had discussion; the BCA will make a decision and mail the decision to Jennifer and Andrea.

Rustam Spaulding made a motion to move into executive session at 5:40 PM, 2nd by Stata, all in favor.

Rustam Spaulding made a motion to move out of executive session at 5:55 PM, 2nd by Tudhope, all in favor.

Rustam Spaulding made a motion that the Listers did the job properly. All postings, warnings and time line was followed, 2nd by Tudhope, all in favor.

Rustam Spaulding made a motion to allow Jennifer Rafferty and Andrea Parker to grieve their taxes based on a special circumstance that the assessment tripled. This will be the standard procedure moving forward, 2nd by Al Bertram, all in favor.

Rustam Spaulding made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:57, 2nd by Stata, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted:


Michele Murray/Isle La Motte Town Clerk