Town of Fair Haven Board of Abatement Hearing Minutes

June 16, 2025

Members Present: Glen Traverse, Danielle Laramie, Cynthia Adams, Sharon Adams, Lorrain Brown, Jason Coupal, Judith Gevry, Richard Greenough, Samuel Lucci,

Others Present: Joseph Dayton

Meeting called to order by Danielle Laramie, at 7:08

Election of officers: Sharon Adams nominated Richard Greenough for Chair. Mr. Greenough declined the nomination. She then nominated Jason Coupal, seconded by Glen Traverse passed unanimously. Sharon Adams nominated Glen Traverse for Vice Chair seconded by Judith Gevry passed unanimously. **Approval of minutes** of the August 5, 2024 meeting. Mr. Traverse made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Mrs. Gevry seconded, Mr. Lucci abstained, passed.

Mr. Coupal took over the hearing and asked Mr. Dayton to tell the board what he was looking for. Mr. Dayton said he had been paying \$325.00 a month on his taxes but had not able to catch up. Mr. Dayton had supplied the board with a handwritten list of his monthly payments and 4 pages of a current bank statement showing his income and debits from that account. Mr. Dayton told the Board that all transactions went through that account.

Ms. Laramie pointed out that Mr. Dayton hadn't paid anything on the 2023-2024 tax year until the last quarter. At the time of the mailing of the information for the hearing Mr. Dayton hadn't finished paying on the 2023-2024 tax year and that the 2024-2025 taxes had no payments made to them. Interest and penalties were being added to the bill. He was losing ground as he was paying nothing toward the current taxes. Mr. Dayton said that he had paid off the 2023-2024 tax year and had put \$301.00 on the 2024-2025 tax year. Ms. Laramie asked if he had looked around for better prices on cell phone, insurances etc. He said he can't get homeowners any less expensive and that he's phones were straight talk. Sharon Adams said that his list of monthly payments added up to \$2,994.00. However at least one entry (water/sewer bill) was quarterly.

Mr. Traverse asked Mr. Dayton what he wanted the board to do for him. He replied that he wanted help so he wouldn't fall further behind. There was a lengthy discussion on how much money Mr. Dayton would need to pay monthly to get caught up. Mr. Dayton said he couldn't pay anymore per month, even though he worked in the town cemetery during the summer months.

Mr. Coupal also asked Mr. Dayton what specifically he was looking for from the board and was told that he didn't want to fall farther behind.

Mr. Coupal asked the board if they had any other questions for Mr. Dayton, there were no more questions.

Deliberative session ended at 8:10 p.m.

Ms. Laramie presented the board with a sample *Board of Abatement Financial Information sheet* that would be given to all applicants in order to obtain the information the board needs to make an educated discission on abatement requests. Discussion ensued the form and what people would like to see. Mr. Coupal suggested Vermont state Form 813A & 813B - Financial Affidavit: Income and Expenses as it is comprehensive.

After some discussion this was tabled until the next meeting.

Other business: None

Meeting adjourned 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Danielle M. Laramie / Salamie

Clerk