

Chelsea Board of Abatement Meeting Minutes (draft)

October 15, 2024 – Town Hall

Present - David Bradshaw, Chair, Ed Kuban, JP, Joe Spinella, JP, Jesse Kay, SB, Kelly Lyford, SB, Leyna Hoyt, SB, Gregg Herrin, SB, Phyllis Hayward, Lister, Susan Elder, Lister, Gayle Durkee, Treasurer, Jane Cushman Delinquent Tax Collector, Karen Lathrop, Clerk.

Remote Attendance – Kevin Marshia, SB, Emily Marshia, JP, Leah Burdick Esq, representative for Ms. Virga.

1. The duly warned meeting was brought to order at 5.32 pm by David Bradshaw.
2. No additions to the agenda
3. No conflicts of interest
4. Chair read the criteria for abatement of taxes and invited Ms. Burdick Esq, to share with the Board the reasons for the abatement request. Ms. Burdick referred the Board to the letter Ms. Virga wrote and gave a brief history of Ms. Virga's medical events which brought her before the Board. She explained long term care Medicaid costs take her who SSI. She noted that due to being in and out of the hospital, Ms. Virga could not timely file her Homestead exemption with the State in 2023 but has filed her 2024 forms.

Ms. Burdick answered the Board Chairs question on % of exemption that is paid in taxes and Gayle Durkee confirmed, the homestead exemption covers about 95% of Ms. Virga's tax bill. Ms. Burdick explained that Ms. Virga tried to timely file her 2024 with her kindle, but the State platform had not recognized her filing but Ms. Virga, had then filed a paper copy of them for the 2024 tax year so she will most likely have her exemption for the next year.

Susan E. questioned what Ms. Virga's plan was going forward to pay her taxes. Ms. Burdick explained Ms. Virga plans to discharge to home and that long-term Medicaid costs from home would be much lower so she would have more income to be able to pay her obligations.

Joe S. moved to abate the taxes in the amount of \$3357.82 with interest of 402.96 for a total of \$3760.78. Phyllis H. seconded the motion.

Brief discussion with Ms. Burdick on Ms. Virga's capability to pay taxes, residency, medical status, support services. Emily M. stated she supported abatement for a long- standing community member who has always paid her taxes and needs a helping hand at this time.

David B. restated the motion for the Board. All were in favor, the motion passed.

5. Joe S moved to adjourn at 6.02 PM with Jesse seconding the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed

