

**TOWN of BRIDPORT
Board of Abatement
July 23, 2019
Town Office
6:00 pm**



PRESENT: Linda Barrett, Joan Huestis, David Bronson, Tim Howlett, Julie Howlett, Darwin Pratt, Corey Pratt, Chris Goodrich, Vicki Major, Paul Wagner , Lydia Vorsteveld, Julia Vorsteveld

BY PHONE: Suzanne Buck, Irene Zaccor

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Chris Goodrich nominated Linda Barrett as Chair. Board members were introduced.

Lydia Vorsteveld request:

Lydia Vorsteveld asked for an abatement of her 2018 taxes on Blissful Dairy and Andre and Lydia Vorsteveld properties (3 parcels). Lydia explained that Andre had been neglecting many things at the farm and had left it to her and their girls to try keep the farm going. He failed to re-enroll the properties in Current Use for the year 2018. She worked with Randy Wilcox, but they were denied an appeal from Current Use. The properties have now been enrolled for 2019. She is asking for an abatement of taxes in the amount that would have been discounted if they were in current use, as well as interest and fees. Treasurer presented a chart of 2017-2019 taxes for the 3 parcels and the amount outstanding. Vorsteveld has been paying \$1500 monthly. Lydia Vorsteveld presented the Financial Statement of Blissful Dairy, LLC as of June 30, 2019.

Lydia and Julia Vorsteveld were excused at 6:30 pm.

Discussion ensued.

Motion was made and seconded "To deny Lydia Vorsteveld's request to abate their 2018 taxes. Motion passed. (7 yes, 1 no, 3 abstained).

Motion was made and seconded "To abate the current interest owed and accruing on the 2018 tax balance due. Motion passed. (7 yes, 4 abstained)

John E. Lafountain request:

Becky Sheppard has asked for abatement of the interest and fees on his unpaid 2018 taxes. Sheppard was not present. Linda Barrett read a second letter from Becky Sheppard explaining the reason for the unpaid taxes was John's unexpected death and having to wait for his estate to go through probate court. Documents presented were Probate Court Certification of Appointment for Becky Sheppard as the

Administrator of the Estate of John E. Lafountain; a check (#110) from the John E. Lafountain Estate in the amount of \$3,991.33; Bridport Tax bill dated 7/18/2018 and delinquent tax notice dated 6/30/2019.

Discussion ensued.

Motion was made and seconded "To abate the interest and penalty on John Lafountain's 2018 taxes in the amount of \$558.77 due to the extenuating circumstances". Motion was passed. (10 yes, 1 abstained)

Motion was made by Tim Howlett/Darwin Pratt to adjourn. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Barrett