Tax Abatement Committee hearing 1/15/2020

Board of Tax Abatement

January 15, 2020

DRAFT (NOT ACTUAL) Minutes

Committee Members: Councilors Chip Mason (CM) (Chair); Sharon Busher (SB); Perri Freeman (PF).

Others Present: Richard Haesler (RH), City Attorney's Office; Kenneth Nosek (KN), Committee Administrator (City Assessor's Office); John Vickery, Advisor to Committee and City Assessor; Jeffrey Herwood, A/R Team Coordinator, Traci Paquette, Accounts Receivable & Receipts Specialist

Public Members and Petitioners Present:

Petitioners Not Present:

At **5:34** p.m. Chair Mason commenced the meeting.

<u>Agenda:</u>

Motion to adopt by **SB** with amendments to order of meeting as follows: David & Heatherly Allard, Marjorie Berger, Ruthine and Lawrence Brunette, City of Burlington Treasurer Office, and during deliberation Richard A. Wilbert and Gail Wilcox Holmes Revocable Trust.

Second by **PF** – passed unanimous

<u>Approval of minutes of</u>:

Motion to adopt by **SB**

Second by – passed **PF**

Tax Abatement Committee hearing 1/15/2020

Public Forum:

None

Petitioners:

David & Heatherly Allard, 027-4-034-000, 25 Alexis Dr.

1. June 8, 2019 fire in basement.
2. Fire marshal report presented to committee.
3. June 8 2019 fire date-feb 14 2020 projected move-in date = $9,963.13 per **TP.**
4. Evidence off fire submitted by the Allards.

Recommendation of Committee:

grant the abatement in amount of $9,963.13

Motion to abate **SB**

Second by **CM**

Motion passed unanimous **3-0**

Marjorie Berger, 027-4-118-055, 141 Cumberland Rd.

1. Did not receive tax bill in mail.
2. Unaware of bill date until late notice came to her.
3. As soon as late notice arrived Ms. Berger came to City Hall and paid bill and late interest fee.
4. Treasurer's office stated that Ms. Berger had no past delinquencies.

5. Ms. Berger set-up an auto debit payment for the future.

Recommendation of Committee:

deny the request on the basis that petitioner did not establish facts upon which relief could be granted

Motion to deny abatement **CM**

Second by **pf**

Motion passed unanimous **3-0**

Ruthine Brunette, 025-2-098-000, 85 Randy Lane

1. Requested abatement in amount of $4,202.79.
2. Son killed by police 5 years ago - he helped with the taxes when alive.
3. Within the past 5 years husband developed dementia, Ruthine diagnosed with cancer.

Recommendation of Committee:

grant on basis of uncollectible in amount of $4,202.79

Motion to deny abatement **CM**

Second by **SB**

Motion passed unanimous **3-0**

City of Burlington, Treasurer's office

1. Business Personal Property account with outstanding taxes, companies no longer exist in Burlington.

2. Burlington Labs declared bankruptcy - new business bought assets but not the liabilities.

3. Ordinance requires payment within 30 days of closure in Burlington.

4. Blodgett never responded to letters for payment.

5. Blodgett may have felt it was manifestly unjust to pay taxes once they left Burlington with much of their equipment per John Vickery.

6. The Clerk Treasurer's Office account receivable team undertook standard operating procedures for obtaining payments including correspondence, telephone calls, meetings, and site visits.

7. C/T office failed to collect taxes due.

Recommendation of Committee:

with the exception of Blodgett Co Inc G S, grant the abatement based on rationale that tax is uncollectible and in the case of Blodgett Co Inc G S that the full board grant the abatement based on collection of tax being manifestly unjust

Motion to deny abatement **CM**

Second by **SB**

Motion passed unanimous **3-0**

Gail Wilcox Holmes Revocable Trust, 039-4-083-000, 19 E. Village Dr.

1. No returned bill, no change of address submitted for this parcel. Therefore, no fault of city.

2. When mailing bill and prior to installments being due Treasurer's office posts advert in Burlington Free Press to put residents on notice of upcoming due date. This notice is posted on city website.

3. Residents can get a copy of their bills at any time through the clerk/treasurer's office.

4. This parcel has no past delinquencies and the late penalty was paid for the 8/12 installment.

5. the tax is not illegal, manifestly unjust or uncollectible.

Recommedation of committee:

deny the request because the petitioner did not establish facts upon which relief could be given

Motion to abate **PF**

Second by **SB**

Motion passed unanimous **3-0**

Richard A. Wilbert, 039-4-083-000, 321 Manhattan Dr.

<u>Recommedation of committee:</u>

postpone action until next meeting to allow time for interaction with petitioner to submit additional documentation

Motion to deny abatement **CM**

Second by **PF**

Motion passed unanimous **3-0**

<u>Executive Session</u>

Motion **CM**

Second **SB**

Motion passes **3-0**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion - **CM**

Second - **SB**

Motion passes **3-0**

Motion passed **3-0** – meeting adjourned at **7:09** p.m.