

Board of Abatement
January 15, 2019
Chris Letourneau Meeting Room

Present: Alan Parent, Vice Chair; Don Vickers,(by phone), Justin Holmes; Gilles Rainville Sr.; Jacqui Hood; Deb Woodward; Tony Heinlein; David Vincent; Craig Volatile-Wood; Ed Ballantyne; Tara Wright; Steve Lamos; Ric Nye; Amber Baker, Treasurer; Cheryl Letourneau, Clerk

Appellants: Justin and Emily Morse of 1315 Bovat Rd.
Bill Hinman, Assessor

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Alan Parent

Alan swore in Justin and Emily Morse and Mr. James Wick.

This meeting regards 1315 Bovat Rd, parcel id 101902300

Mr. Wick presented the evidence for the Morse family. The Morses are not contesting the assessment of this property at this time. The house in question was purchased on September 13, 2018 by the Morses and the tax bill that the attorneys used in the closing had a tax amount of \$1442.00. This tax bill was made out in error as the CO for this property was overlooked and the property did not get assessed at the correct time. Then in October, the assessor reassessed the property and sent a new tax bill to the Morse' showing a difference of 5459.00. The Morses do not disagree with the assessment; they are just having a hard time to come up with the difference due at this time which will create a financial hardship coming up with back taxes and the taxes for the new year. The Morses would like to work with the delinquent tax collector to set up a payment plan over a period of time to pay this amount. They are asking to have the fees and penalties waved at this time.

Jacqui Hood brought up the question of why the sellers of 1315 Bovat Rd are not paying the difference. Mr. Wick said he could write a letter and ask if the sellers would be willing to pay the \$1016.00, but he felt it was not up to them at this point because it was an error on the town and the closing attorneys for not catching the error on the tax bill.

Bill Hinman provided his evidence and told the board that his assistant Bob Ware was out on medical leave for 4 months and a CO (certificate of occupancy) was missed during this time. Bob normally does all of the inspections and during this time Bill took his place. When the error was discovered, Bill inspected the property and came up with a new assessment.

Bill sent the Morses the new tax bill and they were allowed to come in and grieve the assessment. This had to be done through errors and omissions. Once the Morses met with Bill they could file a grievance with the BOA. Bill takes responsibility for the inspection not getting done in the acquired time.

Mr. Wick also agrees that part of this error was also his fault. They did not check with the town regarding the assessment value of the property. The tax bill that Mr. Wick and the others used for the closing had a value of \$88,000.00. Mr. Wick regrets not calling the town to get the correct amount at the closing.

Don Vickers wanted to clarify that the Morses are looking to have the fees and penalties waived.

Discussion was had on how much the fees and penalties would amount to. This is something the delinquent tax collector has to figure out. There were also questions on how the fee for the tax collector gets paid if the fees and penalties get waived. After Amber spoke with Kevin (tax collector) it is noted that the tax collector still gets his fees and the amount waived actually comes off the principle. The amount of fees and penalties that would be do as of 1/15/19 are \$400.00

Jacqui Hood made the motion to move into deliberative session, seconded by Steve Lamos. The ayes were unanimous; the motion carried.

Motion to come out of deliberative session by David Vincent, seconded by Steve Lamos. The ayes were unanimous; the motion carried.

Motion made by Ric Nye to reduce the principle by \$1000.00. Seconded by Steve Lamos. The ayes were unanimous; the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Letourneau, Clerk