

**TOWN OF STAMFORD  
BOARD OF ABATEMENT MEETING  
December 21, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Daniel J. Potvin, David R. Tatro, Michael Denault, and Carol Fachini.  
Justices of the Peace: Sally Bohl, Tyna Senecal, Peter Grudin, Angela Brothers, and Rosemarie Curran.  
Listers: Deborah Darling.  
Town Clerk/Treasurer: Lori Shepard.

**VISITORS:** Lois Bona, Jennifer Dowling, John Engel, Helen Fields, Michael Holland, Debra Johnson, April Sanders and Sidney Sanders.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Rosemarie Curran to consider abating taxes, penalties and interest on several properties.

**MOTION** by Nancy Bushika to nominate Rosemarie Curran as Chair. **SECONDED** by Sally Bohl. All in favor. Motion **APPROVED**.

**MOTION** by Nancy Bushika to nominate Lori Shepard as Clerk. **SECONDED** by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion **APPROVED**.

**MOTION** by Tyna Senecal to accept the minutes of November 17, 2016 as written. **SECONDED** by Nancy Bushika. All in favor. Motion **APPROVED**.

1. 00TR19008L.000 James F. and Lois Bona, 395 The Lane

The Board of Abatement has previously received a copy of Mrs. Bona's request. Rosemarie Curran asked if she had anything more she would like to add. Mrs. Bona stated she never received a bill for this year's taxes. She said her husband always used to take care of the bills and she did not know when it was due. She has lived in town more than 32 years and has never been late. She did not realize until she received the delinquent notice and is asking for an abatement of the penalty and interest owed in the amount of \$310.22.

2. 00TR19012R.000 Michael F. and Jennifer Dowling, 178 Poplar Drive

The Board of Abatement previously received a copy of Mrs. Dowling's request. Rosemarie Curran asked if she had anything more she would like to add. She remembered last year that the taxes were due on November 17, 2017 and thought it was the same this year. She came on Friday afternoon, November 17, 2017 to pay the taxes and the town office was closed. It was closed on Monday as well and she came on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 and paid the full tax amount. Sally Bohl noted that taxes in Stamford are always due on the third Thursday in November, not on a particular date. That avoids the problem of the tax due date falling on a Saturday, and since the due date is always a Thursday, it gives taxpayers the ability to come in the evening to pay. Rosemarie Curran highlighted on her tax bill that the due date was written in three different places on the bill, along with the town office hours and that payments received after the due date were subject to penalty and interest. It was suggested that the rate of "8%" should be included in that sentence on the bill. The abatement she is requesting is \$407.88 in penalty and interest.

3. 00TR17002R.000 Michael and Kelly Holland, 203 Lesure Road

The Board of Abatement has received a copy of Mr. Holland's request. Rosemarie Curran asked if he had anything more he would like to add. He felt his letter was self-explanatory. Mr. Holland is requesting an abatement of the penalty and interest which has accrued on the payment of last year's 2016 taxes. He stated his payment was made last year on the Friday after the due date, only 12 hours late and it took 10 days for the town to process the check so we couldn't have needed it too badly. He recognizes that the State of Vermont allows the 8% penalty, but says the town doesn't have to charge it. Vermont is one of the few New England states with this penalty. In 2010 and 2011 he paid the non-residential rate because he never filed his homestead declaration, so that should be considered. He feels a penalty of \$546.16 is too much and requests that it be abated. Sally Bohl noted that she attempted to reach him by phone and sent several delinquent notices but did not receive any response for the entire year. Three of the notices were sent by certified mail which was refused and returned to her. Mr. Holland nodded in agreement. The fact that he paid the non-residential higher tax for two years does not benefit the town because all school money is turned over to the state.

4. 00TR22003R.000 Debra L. Johnson, 102 Clayton Avenue

The Board of Abatement has previously received a copy of Ms. Johnson's request. Rosemarie Curran asked if she had anything more she would like to add. She is asking for an abatement of the penalty and interest assessed in the amount of

\$433.02. Her late payment was due to unforeseen circumstances. She wasn't living at home for a month. She was taking care of an elderly woman in Williamstown. She made flight reservations and flew out on November 14, 2017 to bring this woman to her family. She was supposed to fly home on November 16, 2017 but she was stuck at the airport and could not get back to Stamford in time. Ms. Johnson tried to call the town office two times and provided a copy of the list of calls placed with her cell phone. She said the line was busy the first time and the second time she left a message. She said her phone was losing power and she did not have a charger with her. The town clerk did not receive the message. Had she gotten through, she said she could have paid the tax bill over the phone with a credit card. Ms. Johnson also noted that the town does not offer online payments. She came Friday morning around 7 a.m. and asked the building custodian to let her in so the check was on the town clerk's desk when the office opened.

Dan Potvin feels the 8% penalty is so high, he considers it usury. He doesn't like that it is coming from our residents. The treasurer stated that she closes the books at 8 p.m. on Thursday. She doesn't pick and choose or play favorites. Any payments received after the Thursday 8 p.m. deadline are handed over to the delinquent tax collector.

00TR12B09R.000 Sidney L. and April H. Sanders, 262 County Road

The Board of Abatement has previously received a copy of Mr. and Mrs. Sanders' request. Rosemarie Curran asked if they had anything more they would like to add. They are asking for an abatement of the homestead late filing penalty. Mrs. Sanders acknowledged they were not both living in Stamford on April 1st. After receiving the tax bill with the non-residential rate, they decided to file the homestead declaration with the state. Their filing was done after the state's cut-off deadline of October 15, 2017 and they received a letter from the state saying they were not eligible for the homestead rate due to their late filing. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders accepted this fact and their property taxes were paid on time. On November 9, 2017 the state assessed a 3% late filing fee of \$124.72. The revised tax bill was mailed on November 9, 2017 to the Sanders' New York address. They did not receive the revised bill until after the town's November 16, 2017 due date had passed. They are requesting an abatement of the 3% penalty plus additional penalties and interest in the amount of \$137.19.

Properties acquired by the Town of Stamford through tax sale:

00ALP00347.000 Formerly owned by Michael and Nancy Jordan, Lot 347, Alpenwald

00ALP00354.000 Formerly owned by Steven Krug, Lot 354 in Alpenwald

00ALP00361.000 Formerly owned by Bryan Miller & Chris Tremblay, Lot 361, Alpenwald

00ALP00401.000 Formerly owned by Antoinette Winks, Lot 401 in Alpenwald

Sally Bohl, the Delinquent Tax Collector, presented the above four properties to the board for consideration. She provided the attached breakdown of back taxes owed from 2011 through 2017. Although the town has previously abated the taxes on tax sale properties, she has been advised by the town's attorney that we should not abate them because the town could recoup the funds when the properties are sold. It has been recommended that the town pay the amount owed at tax sale and then no future abatements would be necessary. Nancy Bushika noted that funds would have to be raised for this purpose.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to enter deliberative session. SECONDED by Peter Grudin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Board of Abatement entered deliberative session at 6:08 p.m.

The board exited deliberative session at 6:55 p.m.

The Board of Abatement voted to deny all requests except for Sidney and April Sanders because they did not meet the criteria allowable by law. The board voted to abate taxes, penalty and interest in the amount of \$137.19 for Sidney and April Sanders because their property taxes were paid on time and it was a penalty assessed by the state for a late filed homestead. Phone calls were made to the appellants from the town office that night with the decisions in an effort to avoid the assessment of additional penalty and interest. Written decisions will be mailed to all taxpayers.

MOTION by Nancy Bushika to adjourn. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Rosemarie Curran  
Chair, Board of Abatement

/las

TOWN OF STAMFORD  
986 MAIN ROAD  
STAMFORD VERMONT 05352

TAX COLLECTOR'S  
DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE  
12/21/2017

BONA JAMES F & LOIS A ET AL  
395 THE LANE  
STAMFORD VT 05352

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

HOUSE/BARN  
395 THE LANE

	2017			
	TAX	PENALTY	INTEREST	TOTAL
	<u>\$ 3,446.93</u>	<u>\$ 275.75</u>	<u>\$ 34.47</u>	<u>\$ 3,757.15</u>
PAID 11/29/17	<u>\$ 3,136.71</u>	<u>\$ 275.75</u>	<u>\$ 34.47</u>	<u>\$ 3,446.93</u>
BALANCE DUE	<u>\$ 310.22</u>			

You may be entitled to an tax abatement under 24 V.S.A. # 1535.  
If you would like to schedule a meeting with the board of abatement,  
Please contact the office.

Sally A Bohl  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes  
Stamford Vermont  
(802) 694-1421

taxes are due the THIRD THURSDAY  
OF NOVEMBER. If not received in the  
treasurer's office by the due date, they  
become delinquent and are subject to  
penalty and interest.

Receipt will be mailed only if payment  
is accompanied by a self-addressed  
stamped envelope.

TOWN OF STAMFORD  
986 MAIN ROAD  
STAMFORD VERMONT 05352

TAX COLLECTOR'S  
DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE  
12/21/2017

DOWLING II MICHAEL F & JENNIFER  
178 POPLAR DRIVE  
STAMFORD VT 05352

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

HOUSE  
178 POPLAR DRIVE

	2017			
	TAX	PENALTY	INTEREST	TOTAL
	4,531.95	362.56	45.32	4,939.83
PAID 11/21/17	4,124.07	362.56	45.32	4,531.95
BALANCE DUE	407.88			

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STAMFORD VERMONT 05352

TAX COLLECTOR'S  
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12/21/2017

HOLLAND MICHAEL & KELLY  
203 LESURE ROAD  
STAMFORD VT 05352

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

HOUSE  
LOT 3  
203 LESURE ROAD

	<b>2016</b>			
	TAX	PENALTY	INTEREST	TOTAL
	<u>\$ 6,068.45</u>	<u>\$ 485.48</u>	<u>\$ 60.68</u>	<u>\$ 6,614.61</u>
11/18/2016	<u>\$ 5,522.29</u>	<u>\$ 485.48</u>	<u>\$ 60.68</u>	<u>\$ 6,068.45</u>
BALANCE DUE	<u>\$ 546.16</u>		<u>\$ 92.85</u>	<u>\$ 639.01</u>

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TOWN OF STAMFORD  
986 MAIN ROAD  
STAMFORD VERMONT 05352

TAX COLLECTOR'S  
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12/21/2017

JOHNSON DEBRA L  
102 CLAYTON AVENUE  
STAMFORD VT 05352

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

HOUSE  
102 CLAYTON AVENUE

	2017			
	TAX	PENALTY	INTEREST	TOTAL
	<u>\$ 4,811.38</u>	<u>\$ 384.91</u>	<u>\$ 48.11</u>	<u>\$ 5,244.40</u>
PAID 11/17/17	<u>\$ 4,378.36</u>	<u>\$ 384.91</u>	<u>\$ 48.11</u>	<u>\$ 4,811.38</u>
BALANCE DUE	<u>\$ 433.02</u>			

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TOWN OF STAMFORD  
986 MAIN ROAD  
STAMFORD VERMONT 05352

TAX COLLECTOR'S  
DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE  
12/21/2017

SANDERS SIDNEY L & APRIL H  
5 SENECA AVENUE  
GENSEO NY 14454-9508

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

HOUSE/CAMP  
COUNTY ROAD

	2017
TAX	<u>\$124.72</u>
PENALTY	<u>\$9.98</u>
INTEREST	<u>\$2.49</u>
TOTAL DUE	<u>\$137.19</u>

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STAMFORD VERMONT 05352

TAX COLLECTOR'S  
DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE  
12/21/2017

MILLER BRYAN M  
TREMBLAY CHRIS  
873 EAST ROAD  
CLARKSBURG MA 01247

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

ALPENWALD VILLAGE INC  
OBERHUGEL ROAD  
LOT 361

YEARS	TAX	PENALTY	INTEREST	TOTAL
2011	<u>\$ 154.67</u>	<u>\$ 12.37</u>	<u>\$ 167.04</u>	<u>\$ 334.09</u>
2012	<u>\$ 148.43</u>	<u>\$ 11.87</u>	<u>\$ 133.59</u>	<u>\$ 293.89</u>
2013	<u>\$ 158.16</u>	<u>\$ 12.65</u>	<u>\$ 113.88</u>	<u>\$ 284.69</u>
2014	<u>\$ 156.06</u>	<u>\$ 12.48</u>	<u>\$ 84.27</u>	<u>\$ 252.82</u>
2015	<u>\$ 157.39</u>	<u>\$ 12.59</u>	<u>\$ 56.66</u>	<u>\$ 226.64</u>
2016	<u>\$ 158.63</u>	<u>\$ 12.69</u>	<u>\$ 28.55</u>	<u>\$ 199.87</u>
2017	<u>\$ 158.35</u>	<u>\$ 12.67</u>	<u>\$ 3.17</u>	<u>\$ 174.19</u>
TOTAL DUE	<u>\$ 1,091.69</u>	<u>\$ 87.34</u>	<u>\$ 587.16</u>	<u>\$ 1,766.18</u>

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Stamford Vermont  
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TOWN OF STAMFORD  
986 MAIN ROAD  
STAMFORD VERMONT 05352

TAX COLLECTOR'S  
DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE  
12/21/2017

KRUG STEVEN  
18 PIERSONS HILL ROAD  
RANDOLPH NJ 07869

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

ALPENWALD VILLAGE INC  
OBERHUGEL ROAD  
LOT 354

YEARS	TAX	PENALTY	INTEREST	TOTAL
2014	<u>\$ 176.87</u>	<u>\$ 14.15</u>	<u>\$ 95.51</u>	<u>\$ 286.53</u>
2015	<u>\$ 178.37</u>	<u>\$ 14.27</u>	<u>\$ 242.58</u>	<u>\$ 435.22</u>
2016	<u>\$ 179.79</u>	<u>\$ 14.38</u>	<u>\$ 32.36</u>	<u>\$ 226.54</u>
2017	<u>\$ 179.47</u>	<u>\$ 14.36</u>	<u>\$ 3.59</u>	<u>\$ 197.42</u>
TOTAL DUE	<u>\$ 714.50</u>	<u>\$ 57.16</u>	<u>\$ 374.04</u>	<u>\$ 1,145.70</u>

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Sally A Bohl  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes  
Stamford Vermont  
(802) 694-1421

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STAMFORD VERMONT 05352

TAX COLLECTOR'S  
DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE  
12/21/2017

JORDAN MICHAEL & NANCY  
353 CIDER MILL ROAD  
SHAFTSBURY VT 05262

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

ALPENWALD VILLAGE INC  
BERGBLUME CIRCLE  
LOT 347

YEARS	TAX	PENALTY	INTEREST	TOTAL
2013	<u>\$ 151.83</u>	<u>\$ 12.15</u>	<u>\$ 109.32</u>	<u>\$ 273.29</u>
2014	<u>\$ 149.82</u>	<u>\$ 11.99</u>	<u>\$ 80.90</u>	<u>\$ 242.71</u>
2015	<u>\$ 151.09</u>	<u>\$ 12.09</u>	<u>\$ 205.48</u>	<u>\$ 368.66</u>
2016	<u>\$ 152.29</u>	<u>\$ 12.18</u>	<u>\$ 27.41</u>	<u>\$ 191.89</u>
2017	<u>\$ 152.02</u>	<u>\$ 12.16</u>	<u>\$ 3.04</u>	<u>\$ 167.22</u>
TOTAL DUE	<u>\$ 757.05</u>	<u>\$ 60.56</u>	<u>\$ 426.16</u>	<u>\$ 1,243.77</u>

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TAX COLLECTOR'S  
DELINQUENT TAX NOTICE  
12/21/2017

WINKS ANTOINETTE M  
C/O ANTOINETTE HANLEY  
802 CHESTNUT GLEN GARTH  
TOWSON MD 21204

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED  
THAT I HAVE HAD PLACED IN  
MY HANDS FOR COLLECTION

ALPENWALD VILLAGE INC  
BERGRUCKEN LANE  
LOT 401

YEARS	TAX	PENALTY	INTEREST	TOTAL
2014	<u>\$ 187.28</u>	<u>\$ 14.98</u>	<u>\$ 101.13</u>	<u>\$ 303.39</u>
2015	<u>\$ 188.86</u>	<u>\$ 15.11</u>	<u>\$ 256.85</u>	<u>\$ 460.82</u>
2016	<u>\$ 190.36</u>	<u>\$ 15.23</u>	<u>\$ 34.26</u>	<u>\$ 239.85</u>
2017	<u>\$ 190.03</u>	<u>\$ 15.20</u>	<u>\$ 3.80</u>	<u>\$ 209.03</u>
TOTAL DUE	<u>\$ 756.53</u>	<u>\$ 60.52</u>	<u>\$ 396.05</u>	<u>\$ 1,213.10</u>

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