

BOARD OF ABATEMENT HEARING
July 16, 2015

Upon due notice to each member of the Board, Michael & Leslie Piela and Benham Rogers for Lewis Rogers, the Board met at the Bethel Town Office on July 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Members present were: Ola O'Dell, Cathy Day, Scott Putney, Kirk White & Eric Benson, Justices; Lisa Hill & Bill Hall, Selectmen; Louise Ferris-Burt & James Gray, Listers; Jean Burnham, Clerk & Treas.

As the Piela's phoned earlier in the day that they would not be able to attend the hearing, the Board acted on the following letter sent requesting the abatement:

Received 5/29/2015

Michael and Leslie Piela
398 South Street
South Hero, VT 05486

Town Clerk
Office of the Town Manager
Town Of Bethel
134 South Main Street
Bethel, VT 05032

RE: Sale of Property located on 183 River Street

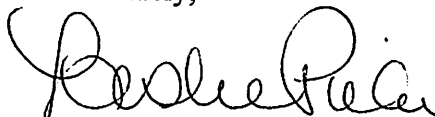
Dear Jean,

We were advised by Keith Arlund, to write to you and request to go before the Board to seek abatement of all taxes, interest and collection fees, regarding our property on 183 River Street. Since Tropical Storm Irene and since losing our home and most of our possessions, we have been dealing with the reality of "starting over" again. This disaster created a tremendous amount of challenges, particularly in the area of our finances. After being out of work for some time, seeking a place to live and re-establishing our businesses, we are working diligently towards financial stability.

We had every intention of paying what is owed to the Town but find ourselves in a very difficult situation. Whatever can be done will be greatly appreciated. We do not want to lose what is left of our property.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



In reviewing the above letter, the board decided inability to pay as their reason for the abatement request.

The Board then went into deliberative session to discuss the request.

Because of the small quarterly payments, the board felt these should have been doable, so the request for abatement was denied. The motion was made by Scott Putney and seconded by Louise Ferris-Burt and passed by a voice vote.

The next abatement request was for Lewis Rogers at 226 Graham Street. Benham Rogers appeared as his representative. He requested that the full amount of back taxes, penalty & interest be abated. He explained that his father had had several strokes, the first one in 2007 and another one since. Said he now needs 24 hour care and with only an income of around \$800 a month things have been very hard. He said in the past he had paid his father's taxes, but he cannot continue. Said last year he did file for the homestead exemption for his father. As this made a big difference in the tax due, it was suggested that he continue to do so.

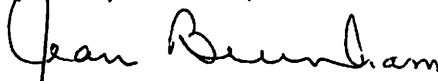
There being no further questions, Ben was excused and the Board went into deliberative session.

A motion was made by Bill and seconded by James that the request be denied. This motion did not pass.

A new motion was made by Eric Benson and seconded by Lisa Hill that we abate \$12,000, \$6,000 for the year 2012 and \$6,000 for the tax year 2013. This was passed by a voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Town Clerk