



TOWN OF ESSEX VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING AS THE BOARD OF ABATEMENT DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 8, 2023

Members Present In-Person: Dawn Hill-Fleury, Chair; Alyssa Black; Leonora Dodge; Alexis Dubief; Betsy Dunn; Rey Garfano; Georgia Lavigne; Karen Lemnah, Assessor; Susan McNamara-Hill, Clerk/Treasurer; Linda Myers; Brian Sheldon; Margaret Smith; Irene Wrenner.

Members Present Virtually: Kendall Chamberlin

1 – CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Dawn Hill-Fleury, Chair.

A. The following properties were incorrectly billed education taxes for commercial solar installations. The error was not corrected before the deadline for errors & omissions passed. The only option to correct the error is to consider abatement under 24 VSA §1535(a)(4).

Ms. Lemnah said that as the Assessor she is charged with setting up new solar accounts in the Town system. She made an error which resulted in these properties being charged education taxes. Solar properties are not charged education taxes as they are already charged the state Uniform Capacity tax.

i) Dousevicz Solar LLC, 20 Carmichael St – Amount of education tax to be abated: \$769.91; \$153.67 of which is to be applied to 2nd installment, \$308.12 to be issued as refund.

Ms. McNamara-Hill clarified the calculations on the taxes for the property, stating that the difference between what was paid and what should have been paid is \$308.12. A refund will be given as it will reflect the total amount that was paid over both installments.

Motion by BETSY DUNN, seconded by ALEXIS DUBIEF to accept the abatement of the education taxes under 24 VSA §1535(a)(4) in the amount of \$769.91. (Clerk's note: Total education tax to be abated is \$923.58.) Motion passed unanimously.

ii) Dousevicz Solar LLC, 18 Carmichael St – Amount of education tax to be abated: \$693.60; \$230.74 of which is to be applied to 2nd installment, \$462.76 to be issued as refund.

Motion by BETSY DUNN, seconded by BRIAN SHELDON to accept the education tax abatement under Item Number Four in the amount of \$693.60. (Clerk's note: Total education tax to be abated is \$1,387.10.) Motion passed unanimously.

iii) Eurowest Cinemas LLC, 27 Essex Way – Amount of education tax to be abated: \$560.87; \$186.64 of which is to be applied to 2nd installment, \$374.23 to be issued as refund.

Motion by LINDA MYERS, seconded by REY GAROFANO to accept the education tax abatement under 24 VSA §1535(a)(4) in the amount of \$560.87. (Clerk's note: Total education tax to be abated is \$1,121.74.) Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hill-Fleury asked what a solar account is, Ms. Lemnah clarified this and explained the difficulties associated with determining which properties were eligible.

Ms. Hill-Fleury thanked the BCA for their hard work on Town Meeting Day and on the recent elections.

3– DELIBERATION

None.

4 – ADJOURNMENT

Motion by BETSY DUNN, seconded by IRENE WRENNER, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion passed at 6:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Darby Mayville, Recording Secretary