

**BOARD OF ABATEMENT**  
**MARTIN MEMORIAL HALL**  
**5259 US ROUTE 5**  
**ASCUTNEY, VERMONT**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2023**

**Present:**

Michael Todd, Kelly O'Brien, August Murray, Rick Bates, Steve Hier, Michael Stankevich

Jim Cahill, Julie Lannen, Roxanne Blake, David Fuller, John Arrison, Julia Lloyd Wright

Barbara Thomas, Marion Ballam, Brandon Gulnick

**Absent:**

Matt Walasewicz, Ginger Wimberg, Flo-Ann Dango

Chairperson Mike Stankevich opened the hearing at 6:40 pm.

**Liane Horsey-Giunta-147 High Street, #070153 #3 inability to pay. The amount requested is \$3,600.**

Chairperson Mike Stankevich read the letter from Liane Horsey-Giunta to the board. Within the letter Liane explained the hardship and frustrations she endured during her mother (Joanne Horsey) later years. The house received damage during the 2011 Tropical Storm Irene with mold resulting which was not remediated. Joanne Horsey passed away on October 23, 2022.

Liane acquired the property after Joanne death.

Liane is currently unemployed and overwhelmed by the house's current condition.

Steve Hier asked if she was living in the house and if she would keep it as her residence. If so, she would be able to file for a homestead and maybe receive help from the State of Vermont for payment on her property taxes.

August Murray asked Brandon Gulnick if the property is up for tax sale. Brandon explained the Board of Abatement application submitted by Liane stopped tax sale proceedings that is scheduled in January of 2024.

Mike Todd stated if the property goes up for tax sale the owner has one year to redeem the property.

Brandon Gulnick, Town Manager, asked Liane if she was working with the Vermont Housing Authority to receive some assistance. Liane is working with Vermont Legal Aid to help her find assistance in paying the past due/current taxes owed. Brandon explained the Town did receive a call from the Vermont Housing Authority asking about the status of Liane's property taxes. The Housing Authority will call back to see what the outcome of the Board of Abatement meeting results before proceeding further.

Rick Bates made a motion to deny an abatement due to the appearance of potential resources available. Steve Hier seconded the motion.

Discussion: Roxanne Blake asked if the tax bill assessment reflects the current condition of the house. Steve Hier explained that Liane could contact the Lister office for a reappraisal.

The vote was unanimous, abatement denied.

Rick Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Steve Hier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Marion Ballam, Assistant Town Clerk