

Skowhegan Board of Assessors  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2022

Present: Bonnie A. Baker, Vice Chairman  
Harvey Austin, Jr.

Assessor's Agent: William "Bill" Van Tuinen  
Asst. Assessor: Leisa D. Emery-Burns

Absent: John F. Grohs, Chairman

**I. Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM, by Vice Chairman Bonnie Baker.

**II. Minutes to be approved and signed:**

1. December 16, 2021, Regular Meeting:

Harvey Austin made a motion to approve and sign the minutes, seconded by Bonnie Baker. – Vote 2 yes – 0 no

**III. Items by the Public:** None

**IV. Unfinished Business:** None

**V. New Business:**

1. Bradley P & Lori A Ames, Map 12, Lot 11-14, Tree Growth Penalty Supplemental Tax in the amount of \$859.80:

Harvey Austin made a motion to approve the supplemental penalty tax bill in the amount of \$859.80, seconded by Bonnie Baker. – Vote 2 yes – 0 no

2. Bradley P & Lori A Ames, Map 12, Lot 11-14, Tree Growth Penalty Supplemental Tax in the amount of \$548.70:

Harvey Austin made a motion to approve the supplemental penalty tax bill in the amount of \$548.70, seconded by Bonnie Baker. – Vote 2 yes – 0 no

3. Leon Nason, Map 23, Lot 10, abatement request:

Bill Van Tuinen explained this house is located on Main Street and the wiring and copper pipe has been stolen out of the structure. The house has deteriorated and the barn is leaning. Bill did inspect the property and recommends a reduction in value in the amount of \$28,500, which is an abatement in the amount of \$522.98.

Harvey Austin asked how the reduction compares to the property that was owned by Ricky Turner and we reduced that value. Harvey stated he feels it is a similar situation.

Leisa Emery Burns got the property card of the comparable property for Bill to do a comparison on the amount of the percentage in reduction.

Bill Van Tuinen said the reduction is just about the same.

There was a brief discussion.

Harvey Austin made a motion to grant the abatement as recommended, seconded by Bonnie Baker. – Vote 2 yes – 0 no

**VI. Chairman's Items:** Noe

**VII. Member's Items:** None

**VIII. Assessor's Agents Items:**

Bill Van Tuinen said that he had one item that needed to be brought up.

We got correspondence from Garrett Quinn on the Notch Road. He has been tested for PFAS and it has been confirmed that his water is contaminated. DEP has installed a water treatment system and the State is paying for the system at this time and as long as they have the money to do so. Bill has no specific recommendation at this time. Bill wants to do more research. Bill feels as we learn about these situations, we do need to consider each and every one.

Harvey Austin stated there would be no arguments from him because he wouldn't want to buy a house in this situation.

Bill Van Tuinen said he wouldn't either. Bill said he needs to learn more about this situation. He wants to learn the cost of maintaining this system and if it is safe to drink the treated water. Bill would like to see if there are any sales in areas that have confirmed contamination. Bill also stated that we shouldn't assume that because he has contamination that all the neighbors do. We need to wait until it is documented. Bill just wanted the Board to be aware of the situation. Bill said as cases come up, each one should be considered.

Bill Van Tuinen said there is a DEP map that Leisa and Bill were looking at before the meeting. It shows where sludge from waste water treatment plants, like our own, have been spread. Those are the most likely locations. Bill said he doesn't know yet how it spreads underground.

Harvey Austin said that he believes they are still spreading sludge at this time.

Bill Van Tuinen said they might be still spreading. DEP says there are about thirty towns with this same issue, Fairfield being ground zero. Bill said this sludge was spread with knowledge from DEP and done openly, but now there is a problem.

Bonnie Baker asked if Bill wanted a motion.

Bill Van Tuinen said he didn't need a motion because both Harvey and Bonnie are in agreement that it is common sense to address this type of issue as we become aware of it.

Bill Van Tuinen will bring this up again at another meeting, after more research is done.

**IX. Asst. Assessor's Items:** None.

**X. Adjournment:**

Harvey Austin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bonnie Baker. – Vote 2 yes – 0 no

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 PM

The Skowhegan Board of Assessors

---

John F. Grohs, Chairman

---

Bonnie A. Baker, Vice Chairman

---

Harvey Austin, Jr.

Boa/leb