BOARD OF ABATEMENT
September 13, 2018
Draft Minutes

Present:	Bob Bancroft	Christian Frenette
	Lynn Bursell	Suzanne Blanchard
	Allison Hope	Nanette Rogers
	Julia Andrews	
Guests:	David Blodgett	

The Board of Civil Authority met on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

Allison Hope nominated Bob Bancroft as Chair, seconded by Christian Frenette. Motion passed: 7-0.

DAVID BLODGETT – ABATEMENT REQUEST
David Blodgett was present to discuss his request to abate a penalty assessed on his 2018 property tax bill. Mr. Blodgett explained that when he filed his income taxes in February, he downloaded the forms on the State's website. He mailed his return to the Vermont Department of Taxes on February 13, 2018.

Mr. Blodgett advised that in May 2018, he received a letter from the Vermont Department of Taxes advising he had filed a 2017 Homestead Declaration form instead of the 2018 form. Mr. Blodgett went to the Vermont Department of Taxes and was told by staff that the State didn't have the correct form on the website in February. Mr. Blodgett filed the 2018 form in May after receiving the letter from the State and his visit to their office. The State assessed him a $15.00 fee.

When Mr. Blodgett received his tax bill, it included a $131.00 penalty. He was told by the Town Office that the penalty is assessed by the Town of Westford based on a policy adopted in 2011. The policy states that a penalty will be assessed for Homestead Declarations that are not filed on time. Mr. Blodgett disputes the penalty because he filed the only form available to him in February. He feels this is a mistake due to the State's error and he should not be penalized.

DELIBERATIVE SESSION
The Board entered deliberative session at 6:42 p.m. The Board exited deliberative session at 6:55 p.m.

Greg Barrows made a motion to approve the abatement request submitted by David Blodgett, seconded by Caroline Brown. Motion passed: 7-0.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Bancroft, Chair
Board of Civil Authority

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk