

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY (BCA)**

**TAX APPEAL HEARINGS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

Meeting convened at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Barnet Fire & Rescue Station (151 Bimson Drive, Barnet).

Board members present: Rebecca Boardman, Caroline Demaio, Benjamin Gates, William Graves, Benjamin Heisholt, Mark Jefferson, Dennis Kauppila, Dennis McLam, and Shellie Samuels.

Others present: Shane Stevenson and Shirley Warden

1. Voter checklist review

a. Review of voter checklist (pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2150)

Mr. McLam briefly reviewed procedures for checklist review and the process for challenging voters and purging the list of names of those who are ineligible to vote in the Town of Barnet. Board members had received, prior to this meeting, copies of the current voter checklist. The Board reviewed the checklist page-by-page, making note of voters who either have moved from Barnet or no one seems to know if they still reside in Barnet.

- Mr. Gates moved to instruct Town Clerk Mr. Heisholt to send written challenge letters to the thirty-three (33) voters so noted. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. A listing of these names is found following these minutes.

b. Consideration of, and take any action on, purgation of voters who were challenged prior to November 2020, did not respond to challenge, and did not vote (pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2150(d)(5))

Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt presented a list of seventy (70) voters who were challenged by the Board in prior to November 2020, did not respond to the challenge letter, and have not voted in the past two general elections (2020 and 2022). These voters are eligible by Vermont statute to be purged from the checklist by the Board. The Board reviewed the list.

- Mr. Graves moved to purge from the voter checklist the seventy (70) voters on the list presented by Mr. Heisholt. Seconded by Mr. Gates and approved by voice vote. A listing of these names is found following these minutes.

2. 2023 tax appeal

a. Receive reports of inspection committee

Appellant:	Stevenson, Richard & Paula
<u>Parcel ID #</u>	<u>E911 Address</u>
0008-01-35	712 Stevenson Road

The Board received and heard the report of the inspection committee. The text of the report of the Inspection Committee is reproduced below:

Sept. 7, 2023
Board of Civil Authority, Barnet, VT

Inspection of the property at 712 Stevenson Road in response to a grievance to appeal the decision of the listers concerning taxation of a sugar house building. The grievance

was brought to the board by Shane, Richard and Paula Stevenson. A hearing was held on August 10, 2023 at 5:30 at the Fire and Rescue Station in Barnet, VT where the decision to inspect the property was made.

On August 18th, 2023 we, Caroline Demaio, Rebecca Boardman and Dennis McLam, members of the Board of Civil Authority, inspected the property at 712 Stevenson Rd. The building is used to produce maple syrup. The square footage agrees with the listers card. There is a small retail store in one corner of the building, in the center is a large room with the arch and storage tanks and next to that is a canning room. In the back is a room for a vacuum pump and reverse osmosis unit.

We feel that the listers description of the property was accurate and the valuation of \$11,700.00 is fair according to the guidelines of the state of Vermont. We do not recommend changing it.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Demaio
Rebecca Boardman
Dennis McLam

b. Deliberate and decide appeal

- Mr. Graves moved to enter deliberative session to deliberate in connection with the quasi-judicial proceedings of the BCA for a 2023 tax appeal, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312(e). Seconded by Ms. Boardman and approved by voice vote. Entered deliberative session at 6:17 p.m.
- Mr. Gates moved to exit deliberative session. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Exited deliberative session at 6:50 p.m.

3. Other business

No other business was discussed.

4. Adjournment

- Mr. Gates moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Jefferson and approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

A true record.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk