

Hinesburg Selectboard

Re: Penalties for Late-filing of Homestead Declarations

Last year the Legislature changed the law relating to late-filing penalties for Homestead Declarations. Eight taxpayers in the Town of Hinesburg were assessed a late-filing penalty of 8 percent by the State of Vermont for failure to file in a timely manner. Most of them were new residents, were in the middle of construction or waiting for final Current Use figures. Their penalties ranged from \$267.74 to \$447.73 in additional funds they had to pay. This money is retained by the Town and the State informed me that the Town is under no obligation to assess these penalties. I would therefore request that the Selectboard authorize me to refund the 8 percent penalties assessed for the tax year 12/13, and to prevent this in the future by authorizing the lister's office to turn off the penalty flag in the grand list.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I think it will send a positive message to our new residents and that they will appreciate our consideration and refund of their penalties.

Sincerely,

Melissa B. Ross