

JUN 22 2017

5/20/2017

74 Crescent Beach Drive
Burlington, VT 05408

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
MONTPELIER, VT

Select Board, Town of East Montpelier
P.O. Box 157
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Re: Delinquent Tax Collectors Notices

Parcel: 09-001-000

And

Parcel: 09-003-000

Dear Select Board:

We are appealing the assessment of penalties and interest on our tax payments due 5/15/2017.

We wrote a check (#1206) for \$3,862.45 on 5/8/2017 to the Town of East Montpelier and mailed it the same day, a week before the due date of 5/15/2017. We acted in good faith and allowed a prudent amount of time for our payment to reach East Montpelier from Burlington before the due date.

Upon receipt of the Delinquent Tax Notices we called East Montpelier and spoke with the town clerk and eventually Don Welch, the town treasurer. Mr. Welch informed us that our tax payments were not received until 5/22/2017 (we do not remember the exact date mentioned in the phone conversation). He also told us the mailing envelope was postmarked 5/9/2017. These are the provable facts:

1. Our check was written on 5/8/2017.
2. The mailing envelope containing our check was postmarked 5/9/2017.

Per Mr. Welch our Tax payments were supposedly received in East Montpelier (2) weeks after the postmark – this seems highly unlikely.

We told Mr. Welch to deposit our check immediately and per our May 2017 Bank statement it cleared our account on 5/25/2017.

The Delinquent Tax Collectors Notices are dated 5/18/2017, which is probably before our payments were "received/credited" in East Montpelier.

In summary:

The known facts corroborate that we mailed our payments a week before the 5/15/2017 due date. What happened after the 5/9/2017 postmark is conjecture. Mr. Welch says he didn't receive our payments until almost (2) weeks after postmark – We think it more likely our payments were misplaced

in the East Montpelier town offices. Or the U.S. Mail could have taken (2) weeks to deliver after the 5/9/2017 postmark.

Whatever scenario is correct doesn't alter the fact that we sent the payments a week before due date and we expect that the select board to recognize that events beyond our control should not subject us to penalties and interest.

Thank you for your consideration

Catherine & Albert Plant Burlington, VT 05408

802.863.6484