

Abatement of Penalty and Interest for April Taxes

James Vartanian <vartanianj@verizon.net>

Wed 5/3/2023 4:09 PM

To: Town Clerk <townclerk@wallingfordvt.com>

Good Afternoon,

My name is James Vartanian, I own a property at 173 Wallingford Pond Road, East Wallingford, VT. This afternoon I spoke with Jill Stone-Teer regarding Interest and Penalty assessed against me for \$222.53 (Interest for \$24.73 and Penalty for \$197.80) because you received my April Tax Payment on 4/18/23 rather than at 4:30 pm on 4/17/23, one day after it was due. I do not know when your mail is delivered or how received mail is processed at Town Hall. That said, I found Jill to be an absolute professional. She was understanding, respectful, and courteous. Jill is just doing her job and I understand that. My issue is not with her or anyone at Town Hall. My issue is with your policy.

I mailed that payment several days before it was due to ensure it would get to you in time. There seems to be an issue with the Post Office most likely at White River Junction since this is the third time this year that payments I've made to vendors or to the Town of Wallingford have arrived late or have not been delivered at all. It is possible that the Post Office at my end is responsible as well. They have been terrible over the past couple of years. Either way, my payment was sent well in advance and in time for you receive it by 4/17/23.

What disturbs me most is the amount of Assessment of Interest and Penalty for a 24 hour period, it is excessive and outrageous. Furthermore, you did not cash the check until 4/27/23, 9 days after you received it. As a taxpayer, I am outraged. It was so important for you to receive the payment on 4/17 and because you received it on 4/18, you assessed Interest and Penalty of \$222.53, yet did not deposit the check until 4/27. You allow no grace period to accommodate occurrences like this or otherwise where the taxpayer is not at fault. I've paid taxes all my adult life in other cities and I've never experienced anything like this.

I sent another check today for the \$222.53, Check #7053, dated 5/3/23. If you do not receive it before 5/18/23 (my understanding of the due date) please have someone reach out to me. I'll keep an eye open in my checking account for the cleared check.

I would appreciate your consideration of Abatement of the Interest and Penalty assessed against me. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

v/r

James M. Vartanian