

Brattleboro Town Finance Committee

Minutes

January 8, 2013

4:30 PM

Hanna Cosman Mtg Rm

Present: Committee members John Wilmerding, Michael Bosworth, Tim Cuthbertson, Kathryn Turnas, Spoon Agave (Chair)

Absent: Committee member Lisa Lorimer

Others: John O'Connor, Town Finance Dir. (30 mins only)

1. Call to order: 4:40 PM
2. Agenda: Capital Fund disbursement proposal; Annual Report
3. Minutes: approve minutes of December 18, 2012 tabled
4. Announcements: report from Wilmerding mtg with Lister Russell Rice discussed PILOT program, town must use legal action to get contribution from some non-profits. Unclear if town can have a policy regarding non-profits/PILOT discussion of social services: many towns do not fund social services like we do. Should there be some link between PILOT contribution and funding contribution through the budget?
Note: only 11 million of P/F project cost in this years budget. Remaining 3.1 Million should be in next year's budget
5. Capital surplus fund: discussion:
Capital Fund initially funded in 2011 with a large transfer of accumulated unused capital funds sitting in General Fund. General agreement that SB proposal to use most of it (\$765,000 of \$879,000) was proper. Suggestion that it be divided and disbursed over three years to lessen impact of P/F bond on tax rate for the next few years. Stabilize tax rate. Agreement.
TASK – Agave will write recommendation to submit before Thurs SB mtg
6. Energy: discussion – general agreement that energy section in Ann Rep should focus on connecting FC recommendations with Town Plan. Suggested goal to set lease rates
TASK – Wilmerding will write draft of energy section
7. Schools: discussion:
Brattleboro schools, Town & BUHS, both under expected average increases (4.5%) in school budgets statewide. What should FC recommendation be based upon.
8. Annual Report: concern about length. Can we produce it in sections?
9. Adjourn: 6:50 PM