

Brattleboro Town

Finance Committee

January 31, 2014

4:00 PM

Hanna Cosman Mtg Rm

Present: Committee members Lisa Lorimer, Michael Bosworth, John Woodward, Tim Cuthbertson (4:40 pm),

Spoon Agave (Chair)

Absent: Committee Member John Wilmerding

Others: Bob Woodworth, Chair, BUHS Schoolboard

1. Call to order: 4:07 PM
2. Agenda: BUHS, pensions
3. Approve minutes of January 24, 2014: **MOTION:** Bos/Lor to approve - amendment - change "to us" in item 6 to "businesses" - PASSED 4-0
4. Announcements: Cuthbertson has accepted a job taking him out of town. Will make few meetings.
5. Schools: BUHS discussion with BUHS Chair Bob Woodworth
Cause of budget increase mostly from teacher contract agreement.
Wages and benefits up about 2%.
Objective was level service, not level funding. More maintenance anticipated as building reaches 10th yr since rebuilding
School populations - BUHS down 10, Middle Sch up 14, Career Ctr no change
Increasing responsibilities for kids
Pensions: Teacher union pension has significant shortfall. All in Defined Benefit; negotiated at state level
6. Energy: Woodworth does not know what, if anything, is going on with the installation of solar power at BUHS. Acknowledges "acres" of roof.
Bosworth proposes FC support upcoming Town Mtg articles:
Is FC in favor of allocating \$50,000 from AG fund to energy efficiency? Yes, 5-0.
Is in favor of Article #27 authorizing the spending of \$375,000 to install pellet boiler in one elementary school. Yes, 4-0-1.
TASK: Bosworth - will find out payback period for boiler investment.

7. Annual Report: things to include: Bond repayment schedule
Increases in water sewer rates
Increase in BUHS budget
TASK: Bosworth will draft school section
8. Adjourn: 6:00 PM