

# Brattleboro Town

## Finance Committee

### Minutes

May 22, 2012  
SB Meeting Rm

4:30 PM

Present: Committee members Kathryn Turnas, Bob Rottenberg, Michael Bosworth, Tim Cuthbertson,

Spoon Agave (Chair)

Absent: Committee member John Wilmerding

Others: John O'Connor, Town Finance Director

1. Call to Order: 4:34 PM
2. Agenda Review: No prepared agenda. Anticipate discussion of monthly finance report, tax shift idea, schools
3. Approve minutes of May 8, 2012: **MOTION:** Rottenberg/Bosworth, to approve PASSED 4-0
4. Announcements: Rottenberg toured police station. Saw need for change. See sense in proposed design.  
Agave will miss next two meetings due to vacation.
5. Town Finances: Discussion of March and April monthly reports.
  1. Police/Fire facilities project now showing close to \$16 million cost. That would add 9 to 10 cents to municipal tax rate. Town Manager seeking ways to trim costs.
  2. Financial report - currently at 83.6% of annual predicted expenditures. Should be at 83%.  
Close enough. Suggests that we'll come in on target for fiscal year ending 6/30.
  3. Tropical Storm Irene - Town has spent \$82,000 thus far.  
Feds increased coverage to 90%. This reduces Town obligation by 5%, or about \$45,000.  
O'Connor confirmed that this amount will be returned to Undesignated Fund.
  4. Parking Fund - budget targets too close to call
  5. O'Connor will check to see if there are proposed Charter changes in the works
6. Tax shift concept: Total property tax is capped at \$2,000 for incomes below \$47,000. Not clear

then how a property assessment reduction would be effectively implemented. Also not known about existence of legal obstacles.

7. Schools: discussion centered around closing of one elementary school. Information needed on savings from teacher/staff reductions, transportation etc (operations). Questions about how this would effect class size, quality of education (how is quality measured? test scores? graduation rates? college acceptance?), cost per pupil

8. Adjourn: 6:40 PM

TASKS: Agave - E-mail Town Mgr re keeping FC up-to-date on projects  
Agave: E-mail O'Connor re breakdown of operating transfers, tax abatements, capital transfers out, lease expenses