

Brattleboro Town Finance

Committee

Minutes

May 28, 2013
SB Mtg Rm

4:30 PM

Present: Committee members Tim Cuthbertson, Michael Bosworth, Lisa Lorimer, John Woodward,

John Wilmerding, Spoon Agave (Chair)

Others: Ron Stahley, WSESU Superintendent; Margaret Atkinson, Chair, Town School Board; Bob

Woodworth, Chair, BUHS Board

1. Call to order: 4:35 PM
2. Agenda: Schools; work plan
3. Approve minutes of May 14, 2013: MOTION to approve - Cuth/Wilmer discussion: Bosworth - add 'FY 2013' in item #5. Passed, as amended 6-0
4. Announcements:
Wilmerding distributed Slow Living Conference flyers
(Wilmerding departed)
5. Schools: general discussion. Stahley - regretted that FC did not meet with him/Atkinson/Kane prior to publishing report. States that there were inaccuracies that should have been avoided. One inaccuracy was student count. Difficult to predict kindergarten changes. Atkinson believes that FC does not understand implications of our recommendations. FC pointed out time constraints but agrees with the value in greater interaction.
Effects of Fed sequestration - \$300,000 expected. Another \$300,000 very possible in remedial support.
Health care - contract covers all schools in WSESU (Guilford etc.). Get best rates from state teachers association.
Surplus - should be a surplus this year. New families in town can lower surplus\
Guilford middle school transfer to BAMS should produce a very slight revenue increase.
Statement from FC that our job is to be critical and we won't always agree
(School representatives departed).
Agreement that we had a healthy dialogue. Sense that school might be overwhelmed at union negotiations

Statement that we should be cautious suggesting cuts in teacher wages and benefits.
Teacher pay scale between \$32,000 and \$63,000, average at \$51,000 and declining due to early retirement program. VT state household income is \$56,000, Windham County \$51,000. Bratt \$46,000.

6. Work plan:

Create dashboard. what will be on it?

Income stats? cost of living?

Chair requests that members work on this between meetings.

7. Adjourn: 6:30 PM