

# Brattleboro Town Finance Committee

## Minutes

June 26, 2012

4:30 PM

Selectboard Mtg Rm

Present: Committee members Michael Bosworth (Vice Chair, presiding in Chair Agave's absence), Tim Cuthbertson, Bob Rottenberg

1. Call to order: Approximately 4:30 PM

2. Agenda Review – set agenda

- a. Long term debt
- b. Business personal property tax
- c. 5-year budget
- d. Schools
- e. Police/Fire Station
- f. Energy
- g. Wilmerding survey idea

3. Approve minutes of June 12, 2012: **MOTION:** Rottenberg/Cuthbertson – to approve  
PASSED unanimously by those present

4. Long term debt:

Michael reviewed his work in progress spreadsheet that's an attempt to combine all information on long term debt (schools as well as Town) in one place. Several questions for John O'Connor and Jim Kane were generated from the discussion.

Tim introduced a DRAFT Debt Management Policy into evidence. The committee discussed this at length. It intends to further discuss it in July, including with John O'Connor present.

5. Business personal property tax:

The committee reviewed the list of Brattleboro Business Personal Property Non-Filers as of June 15, and also the list of towns in VT that have such a tax on machinery and equipment and/or inventory.

6. 5-year budget:

Kathryn was not present so there was nothing new to discuss on this topic.

7. Schools:

Bob presented his "Questions and issues for Brattleboro School Committee" paper. The committee felt it best to gather background data (on school census trends, on students from other towns attending Bratt. schools, on students from Bratt. schools attending school outside of town. The committee also brainstormed who might be potential allies in the process, whether from the Brattleboro Town School Committee or elsewhere.

8. Police/Fire Station:

There was nothing new to discuss on this topic..

9. Energy:

There was nothing new to discuss on this topic.

10. Wilmerding survey idea:

Though those present saw some merit in surveying either Town Meeting members or Town residents & business owners to get a better idea of their thoughts on town finance topics, they weren't enthused about the list proposed by John. They also wondered whether it was the committee's role to conduct such a survey.

11. Other:

Michael wondered whether it would be a good idea -- in order to help educate townspeople in general and Town Meeting members in particular -- to write one or more articles for the local papers on town finance topics. For example, would it be helpful to have an article on the police/fire station before the Town Meeting vote on the issue? Tim and Bob thought the idea had some merit.

12. Adjourn:

Approximately 6:40 PM

Minutes taken by M. Bosworth