

Brattleboro Town Finance Committee

Minutes

July 9, 2013

4:30 PM

Hanna Cosman Mtg Rm

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

Spoon Agave (Chair)

Absent: Committee Member John Wilmerding

Others: Leslie Krogh-Wisner, auditor; Barb Sondag, Town Manager

1. Call to order: 4:38 PM

2. Agenda Review: discussions with Auditor, Town manager. Internal discussion

of work plan progress

3. Discussion w/auditor:

Emphasis on internal controls e.g. policies, practices and protocols around

such things as protection of assets, risk management etc

Auditors will be working until mid-August. May return in September if

certain compliances are required

Sought suggestions from FC - our interest in capital surplus policy expressed

4. Discussion w/ TM Sondag:

Improvements recommended - development of performance measures, will take a

few years to put in place

Need for more awareness of efficiencies at all levels. Culture of waiting

until things break before repairs are done

Municipality should have complete list of prioritization for services to understand

needs and know how to best respond to budget cuts when necessary

5-year budgeting, capital planning very difficult because of constant turnover on SB

and attendant changes in priorities and policies. Little or no institutional

memory of recent history. SB can change several times

during one project

Where should there be investment in appropriate technology? Better integration

between Clerk and Lister. Overall, IT person not a

priority hiring

Staffing - if another position were affordable it should be in 1. DPW or 2. Planning

Development - focus on tax stabilization; Government shouldn't do what can be

done by private sector

5. Approve minutes of June 25, 2013: **MOTION** to approve (Wdwd/Cuth) - approved 5-0

6. Announcements: none

7. General Discussion on work progress

Presentation of school district chart, selected districts, with number and percent of

students living in poverty. Brattleboro very high but not highest

Discussion of non-profit contributions - review by Cuthbertson reveals very small

payments. One sixth (16%) of Grand List is tax exempt.

Egregious example:

Congo Ch assessed at 3.5 million. Contributed \$900. Total NP contributions

only \$150,000 on \$188,000,000. General agreement that Annual Report will

have a section on non-profits

Some states taking action, e.g. PA

Question about the size of the underground economy and importance in overall

economy

8. Adjourn: 6:35 PM