

Brattleboro Town Finance Committee

Minutes

October 23, 2012

SB Mtg Rm

Present: Committee members Kathryn Turnas, Tim Cuthbertson, Michael Bosworth, John Wilmerding
Spoon Agave (Chair)
Absent: Committee member Bob Rottenberg
Other: John O'Connor, Town Finance Director (departed 5:00 PM)

1. Call to Order: 4:35 PM
2. Agenda:
 - Special Town Mtg review
 - Linking website
 - Annual Report
 - Policies
 - Invite School Board chairs, Public Works Director
3. Approve minutes of October 9, 2012: MOTION to approve Wilmerding/Bosworth Passed 5-0-1
4. Announcement: Town budget process begins Monday, October 29th at 7:30 AM; All encouraged to attend and take notes.
5. Discussion with O'Connor: Bond bank interest rate rose slightly. Interest we will pay unknown until Bond Bank sells bonds, probably about July 15th. We'll only pay interest rate next year (FY 2014) and both principal and interest FY 2015 and thereafter
6. Town meeting: numerous compliments affirm that our report was well-received. Hearsay about the formation of an oversight committee for the P/F project. Likelihood it wouldn't be until construction begins
7. Website discussion: We are bound by state open meeting laws and record archiving. What should we have on it? What is required to be on it? What constitutes an electronic meeting? Agave suggests we need only agendas and minutes, final drafts of documents we write and documents we post for research and informational purposes. More discussion needed. Cuthbertson will refine website with weblog and provide instruction on use. Will link to Town website.
8. Invitations: we need to re-invite school boards (Nov13th) and add Public Works Director Barrett for ensuing meeting. General agreement.
9. Budgeting sessions coming up.

TASK: Agave will get town budget schedule; invite boards and PS director; check on P/F oversight committee
Bosworth will get school budgeting schedule
10. Annual Report
 - Charts: debt/expenditures; debt/per capita; revenue/per capita; sources of revenue;

capital expenditures; tax rates; parking revenue; water/sewer fees; exemptions;
bonding history; drop-in center; pupils eligible for subsidized lunches

IT position

Enumeration of town strengths and weaknesses

11. Questions to send to school board chairs
 - plans for bond return
 - what does declining pupil count trigger
 - features of new labor contracts
 - post-employment benefits
 - bussing
 - capital plans

12. Adjourn: 6:52 PM