

# Brattleboro RTM Finance Committee

## Minutes

November 12, 2013

4:30 PM

Hanna Cosman Mtg Rm

Present: Committee members John Woodward, Michael Bosworth, Tim Cuthbertson, John Wilmerding,  
Spoon Agave (Chair)  
Absent: Committee member Lisa Lorimer

1. Call to order: 4:36 PM
2. Agenda review: no changes
3. Approve minutes: **MOTION:** Wood/Cuth to approve, PASSED 4-0
4. Announcements:  
Woodward took a job with state as utilities/economic analyst. Will be in Montpelier M/T/W every week.  
**MOTION:** Agave/Cuth - move meeting day to 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, same time. PASSED 5-0
5. Schools: General discussion - Assertion that short of closing a school or enlarging classes there is little to do to significantly reduce budgets. What then should be the focus in our report? Suggestions that we graph major expense areas to show changes over time. e.g. individual (town, BUHS) budgets, salaries, pupil costs
6. General discussion: What is the overall thrust of our report? Suggestion that we develop graphs, charts etc to illustrate trends that are most burdensome to our tax base. General agreement. Comparison of town, BUHS and municipal budgets; comparison of tax rates, budgets and grand list; history of exemptions  
Suggestion that we recommend performance audits on an annual basis. General agreement to consider this.  
Related discussion of Matrix Report, a contracted performance audit completed and issued in December 2004. Agreement to read this to understand recommendations and implementation.  
  
TASK: Cuthbertson - exemptions chart  
TASK: Woodward - two school charts or graphs  
TASK: Agave - reset meeting time and sites; get departmental budget info from O'Connor
7. Adjourn: 6:38 PM