

APPROVED minutes
Town of Brattleboro Finance Committee

February 10, 2016
4:00 p.m.

Minutes by Paula Melton, Recording Clerk

Attending

Paula Melton, Recording Clerk
Franz Reichsman, Chair
John Wilmerding

The meeting opened at 4:08 p.m. and adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Deliberations

- Franz presented his draft of recommendations on the Town budget. The committee discussed this document at length, including:
 - That the financial benefits of moving to Black Mountain Road are cancelled out by the life-cycle cost of owning another building
 - The need for a table comparing the pros and cons of each project proposal
 - A conversation about needing a “visible police presence” downtown and whether this concern is within the scope of the finance committee to address
- Franz presented his draft of recommendations on the police & fire projects.
 - Paula suggested minor edits to wording.
 - We discussed how to make recommendations regarding energy savings.
- Paula presented her draft of recommendations on the Brattleboro Town School District budget. The committee discussed this document at length, including:
 - Whether we will recommend approving a budget that is uses taxes to build a savings account without specific capital projects or savings policies tied to the amount
 - The influence of Act 46 and Act 166 on the budget and the future of the school district
 - How public pre-k might compare financially and philosophically with the current public/private model

Action Items

- Franz and Paula will both bring drafts to the next meeting for finalizing.

Decisions

- We decided to approve the minutes of January 27 at our next meeting since the clerk forgot to bring them.
- The committee will meet on February 22 to finalize the wording of our recommendations on the Town and Town school budgets and on the police & fire projects.