

## DRAFT minutes

### Town of Brattleboro Finance Committee

January 8, 2016

4:00 p.m.

*Minutes by Paula Melton, Recording Clerk*

#### Attending

Paula Melton, Recording Clerk

Franz Reichsman, Chair

The meeting opened at 4:08 p.m. and adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

#### Deliberations

- Franz shared updates on the police and fire project. We discussed the survey and questioned its utility for helping the Selectboard make a recommendation.
- Franz characterized our idea of having a report included as part of the printed town report as unrealistic. He suggested the committee abandon that plan and have our report finalized in time for the informational meetings.
- Paula suggested we also get on the agenda of the informational meetings to present our analysis and recommendations.
- Paula shared and explained the Town school budget, requesting feedback on what metrics other committee members would like to see charted to aid understanding.
- The committee discussed whether to make a recommendation to voters regarding Accelerated Merger under Act 46. No decision was made.
- John Wilmerding attended briefly and praised the proactive attempt to gather public input on the police and fire projects.

#### Action Items

- Franz will request a tour of police facilities for both himself and Paula.
- Franz will watch Selectboard meetings he has missed and attend the next meeting as well.
- Paula will attend the Town school board budget meeting and ask questions to inform our analysis and recommendations.

- Paula will bring information on the BUHS #6 budget to the next meeting on January 12.
- Paula will also bring suggested wording for a press release or other statement reminding both voters and RTMs to attend the BUHS budget meeting in February, so it can be finalized and approved at the January 12 meeting.
- Paula will work on getting the Finance Committee on the agenda for all informational meetings.

### Decisions

- The committee accepted the December 9, 2015 minutes with one wording change (from “climate” to “area” in the discussion of police-car longevity).
- The committee decided not to attempt to meet the January 13 printing deadline for the annual report since the final budget will not be ready in time for us to provide full analysis and recommendations.
- The committee will instead send an email to all Town Meeting members the day after Election Day, with our recommendations and analysis.
- The committee also plans to send an email to all current Town Meeting members about the upcoming (early February) meeting on the BUHS #6 budget, providing our analysis and recommendations, and encouraging attendance.