

Brattleboro Representative Town Meeting Finance Committee
Minutes of February 21, 2019

Members present: Franz Reichsman (chair), Elizabeth McLoughlin, Michael Hoffman
Members not present: Abbe Sweeney, Avery Schwenk
Others in attendance: Rikki Ricassi

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. Minutes from January 3, February 7, and February 14, 2019 were approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2019. The location will be determined and announced with the agenda.

Liz has provided committee members with a draft of the municipal budget report. We discussed her draft, in particular regarding the 1% local option sales tax and the request for funding a marketing initiative with an appropriation of \$42,119. The committee is in support of enacting the 1% LOST this year, as written in the report. The committee also supports the marketing proposal, albeit with a change in the process of providing the funds to the DBA and the Chamber of Commerce. We will propose that the funds be appropriated in the budget but not disbursed until a more detailed plan is approved by the selectboard. Liz will incorporate these perspectives into the report, which will be considered for final approval at our next meeting.

Franz's revised drafts of the reports for the town school district budget and the BUHS district budget were discussed. Three clarifications relating to the high school budget were raised by Liz and the clarifications were included in the report. Following that action, the drafts were approved by the committee as our final reports:
"Motion to approve the Brattleboro Town School District report and the Brattleboro Union High School District report, as modified," by Liz McLoughlin, passed unanimously.

The Act 46 timeline was discussed. We still do not know whether the districts will be merged into a unified district. At this point it appears less likely that the legislature will delay the merger for schools in the WSESU. The legal challenge against the merger was presented to the court last week but no ruling on an injunction has yet been made. The first meeting of the transitional board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Franz Reichsman.