

## Brattleboro Representative Town Meeting Finance Committee

Minutes, November 1, 2017

Committee members present: Abbe Sweeney, Avery Schwenk, Franz Reichsman, Scott Smyth, Ralph Meima. Others present: Judy Davidson, George Carvill, Andy Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. And the agenda was reviewed.

Following the previous meeting two committee members (Franz and Scott) drafted statements on Act 46, which were combined into a single statement for the committee to consider, *An Analysis of the Proposed Act 46 Study Committee School Merger Plan*. A detailed discussion ensued, with clarification of key points. There was broad agreement with the language in the analysis. (See attached.) After the addition of an inadvertently omitted word, the statement was approved unanimously and will be made public at the Act 46 informational meeting tonight and also communicated via press release to local media.

Franz reported on the last Selectboard meeting, including the recently updated Long Term Financial Plan and pending release of the FY 2019 budget proposal; the recent letter of intent between the town and the state concerning a lease of 10,000 square feet of space in the municipal center; the pending purchase of a used ladder truck as an interim replacement for the current ladder truck, which otherwise would require extensive repairs; and the unexpectedly large unassigned fund balance at the close of FY 2017.

When a lease based on the letter of intent has been drafted, the Finance Committee will review its provisions in preparation for consideration by Representative Town Meeting.

A discussion of our plans and timelines centered on the four areas needing review over the next several months, now that our work on the Act 46 merger proposal is done. The four areas are: the municipal budget, the BUHS budget, the Brattleboro Town School District budget, and the pending municipal center lease. Dates and assignments are as follows:

Municipal budget — The initial budget proposal will be presented and discussed at next week's select board meeting. For the next couple of months the select board will meet weekly for budget discussion. Scott and Franz will focus on this area.

BUHS budget — The BUHS budget process begins next week with the BUHS finance committee's deliberations. Franz will attend these meetings and review the budget.

BTSD budget — The school board will begin its budget process on December 6. Franz will attend meetings and review the budget.

Municipal Center lease — Abbe will review the lease when it is available. Avery and Ralph also are interested in this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.