

Brattleboro Representative Town Meeting Finance Committee

Corrected Minutes of Nov. 15, 2018

Cusick Conference Room
2nd floor - Windham Regional Career Center
80 Atwood Street, Brattleboro

Call to order/Review agenda

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chair Franz Reichsman at 5:36 p.m. Members in attendance: Franz Reichsman; Elizabeth McLoughlin; Scott Smyth; Nancy Anderson. The agenda was reviewed.

Minutes of November 1, 2018

Accepted with minor changes.

Confirm/adjust future meeting dates

Jan 3, 2019 - Time conflict: BTSD Informational Meeting – Not sure of time. Agreement to meet earlier than 5:30 p m – maybe, 5:00, so committee members can attend both meetings. Franz will report back to us about this time schedule.

Review progress and update work plan for budget reviews and reports

Municipal budget: (Franz & Elizabeth)

- Franz gave review of budget and his comments to the board about police equipment expense.
- Other specifics at board meeting from Peter Elwood: "Maintenance expense" is higher because the town will be absorbing maintenance expenses of four departments – Police, Fire, Library and Municipal Center.
- Discussion by committee: the suggestion by one Select Board member - that the Select Board consider opening a discussion with the public about the possibility of instituting the Local Option Sales Tax for town revenue.

School funding formula and Act 46:

- November 30 - date when State Education Board decides on school merger (Franz)
- Discussion on structure of boards if merged and dates (per Nancy's notes from the BTSD meeting on Nov.7 with Superintendent Lyle Holiday).
 1. July 1 would be official beginning date of merger.
 2. Chair and clerks of existing school boards would meet in the earlier part of the year 2019, as a Transition Board, bringing their individual budgets forward, with the purpose of preparing a combined budget for the newly-elected board.
 3. New multi-town school board is elected in special election, in time to ready the budget for the July 1st starting date of merger.
 4. Legal suites cannot stop the merger – only an injunction can stop it.
 5. School Boards still function as usual to set-up budgets and meetings until the state decision stands - without legal problems; and the Transition Board is formed.

BTSD Expenditures - Brattleboro Town School District (Nancy)

- Budget draft not available as of this Finance meeting.
- Dec 6 -Proposed Budget formally available at BTSD Board meeting.
- Jan.3. BTSD Board Informational meeting to public; Board accepts budget.

BUHS expenditures (Scott)

- *State funding for future expenditures:* Studies show that a healthy increase of students is beginning, which, in the future, will positively affect the state funding for number of students.

BAMS

- All students will be receiving Chrome Books.
- Two added positions are added for Title 1 program – Budget goes up by half for this Title 1 expense; the other half is federally funded.

Career Center

- Focusing on curriculum offerings in areas that draw more students to keep the staff salary expenses at the most efficient level.

Athletics\Capital\Repair Projects

- 350K - Budget items being considered.
- Sport Fields\Facilities\History:
 - One of the big fields is for sale by owner (not BUHS). Planning for what to do when it is not available. Suggestions: Tear down Tenney Field and the historic grandstand; design the space for multi-use for different sports.
 - Large support for saving Tenney Field and the grandstand makes it a three-way decision between the owner, the school and the Tenney Field fans. One fan group has named itself, "Team Tenney" on Facebook.
 - Other field and facility expenses include: new turf on football field; BAM gym floor repair with synthetic rubber surface.
- Hot water equipment

Upcoming Capital Project 2020

- New Roof – present roof will be 20 years old

Other Business:

- Franz was recently interviewed at our local radio station. He encouraged committee members to think about taking part, as well.

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

Corrected Minutes submitted to Town Manager Secretary Jan Anderson on 12\17\2018

Nancy Anderson, Recorder