

Tax Structure Commission Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Ethan Allen Room, State House

**DRAFT** Minutes

Present: Commissioners: Stephen Trenholm, Bram Kleppner, Deb Brighton, Staff Director: Sean Sheehan, Consultant: Susan Mesner, JFO Staff: Joyce Manchester, Mark Perrault, Chloe Wexler, Stephen Klein, Tax Department: Erin Hicks-Tibbles, Jake Feldman, Doug Farnham, Julie Lowell, Public Assets Institute, Representative Janet Ancel, Representative Ann Cummings, Jeff Fanon, VT–National Education Association, Colin Robinson, VT-NEA

**1:03 P.M.** -Commissioner Trenholm called the meeting to order.  
-Approval of minutes from 4/22/19 – Commissioner Trenholm moved to approve, Commissioner Brighton seconded, all in favor.  
-Review of agenda – Commissioner Trenholm suggested the Commission plan June, July and August at this meeting. He also offered to show the Commissioners the link to the VT Tax Department property tax adjustment form at the end of the meeting.  
-Public comment - none  
-Finalize principles documents – Mr. Sheehan presented the documents.  
Commissioner Kleppner suggested posting TSC drafts to the website and taking comments from the Commissioners and the public via the website. Ms. Mesner agreed to pilot this process with the next ‘backgrounder’ draft.

**1:15 P.M. Vermont’s long-term revenue challenges**  
Representative Janet Ancel, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means and Senator Ann Cummings, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance, talked with the Commission about the legislative process.

**2:00 P.M. Legislative Update** – Ms. Mesner presented a legislative update prepared by Graham Campbell, JFO. Doug Farnham explained the capital gains changes and the fuel tax changes.

**2:15 P.M. Review of stakeholder list and outreach plan, work plan and calendar**  
Mr. Sheehan presented the calendar and noted that the report to the legislature is due January 15, 2020 not February, so timeline adjustments were made.  
The Commissioners discussed concerns and strategies to ensure maximum inclusion of all stakeholders. Mr. Sheehan will incorporate discussed ideas into a subsequent work plan.

**2:45 P.M. Future work** - Mr. Sheehan and Ms. Mesner gave updates to the Commission regarding Joyce vs. Finnegan and business taxation.

**3:30 P.M. Next meeting date and agenda** – Ms. Mesner suggested creating a standing item on the agenda called the ‘parking lot’. These are questions or issues the Commissioners have raised in discussion that have not yet been followed up on.

Commissioner Trenholm set the meeting dates for the summer:

Monday, June 24, 2019, 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. in the Ethan Allen Room

Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. in the Ethan Allen Room

Thursday, August 29, 2019, 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. in the Ethan Allen Room

Items for next agenda: resident withholding, scorecard, education finance. Commissioner Brighton will work with Mr. Sheehan and Ms. Mesner to organize education finance issues for the next meeting.

**3:45 P.M. Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,

Sorsha Anderson  
Staff Associate, Joint Fiscal Office