

Tax Structure Commission
Monday, February 11, 2019
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Room 10, State House
DRAFT Minutes

Present: Present: Commissioners – Deb Brighton, Stephen Trenholm and Bram Kleppner. Staff Director, Sean Sheehan, Consultant, Susan Mesner. JFO Staff: Sorsha Anderson, Joyce Manchester-10AM, Stephen Klein and Maria Belliveau-10:20, Graham Campbell – 10:47 AM, Dan Dickerson – 11:21AM, Julie Lowell, policy analyst - Public Assets Institute, Jake Feldman, Tax Department – 10:45

9:00 A.M. - Welcome – Stephen Trenholm, Commissioner – call to order: 9:08

- Approval of minutes from 1/8/19 – BK to approve, DB second -all in favor

9:10 A.M. - Review and Approval of Work Plan

- Discussion of presented work plan. No changes. Commissioner Brighton moved to adopt the work plan, Commissioner Kleppner seconded. All in favor.
- Commissioners instructed Ms. Anderson to forward the Work Plan and the draft Budget to the Joint Fiscal Committee, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means by February 15, 2019 as per the authorizing statute. The Commissioners had no objection to the budget, but as action was not warned, they will formally approve the budget at the meeting in March.

9:23 A.M. - Public Comment

- Letter from Hugh Williams and Lucy Beck was read into the minutes by Commissioner Trenholm
- The Commissioners asked this letter be posted on the website and forwarded to the Tax Commissioner, Senate Finance Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

9:40 A.M. - Q&A on Application of Open Meeting Law

- Mike O’Grady, Office of Legislative Council and Tucker Anderson answered clarifying

10:00 A.M - Discussion of Principles of a High-Quality State Revenue System

- Sean Sheehan and Susan Mesner presented a draft of potential guiding principles. After some feedback, Mr. Sheehan and Ms. Mesner said they would create a few other variations for the Commissioners’ approval.

10:20 A.M. - Appropriations and Budget Review

- Maria Belliveau, Joint Fiscal Office presented to the Commission.

10:47 A.M. - Report on Unfunded Pressures on the Budget

- Stephen Klein, Joint Fiscal Office presented to the Commission.

10:50 A.M. - Revenue/Tax Briefing

- Graham Campbell and Daniel Dickerson, Joint Fiscal Office presented to the Commission.

12:05 P.M. - Commissioner Discussion

12:30 P.M. - Lunch

1:00 P.M. - Overview of Vermont Tax Study, 2005-2015

- Joyce Manchester, Joint Fiscal Office presented to the Commission.

2:00 P.M. - Discussion and Future Work/Agenda Items

- March meeting will be a 3-hour meeting. Date is pending.

2:42 P.M. - Adjourn