

Federal Transition Task Force

January 15, 2024

Meeting Start: 2pm

In attendance:

- **Mike Pieciak**, *co-chair*, Vermont State Treasurer
- **Ashlynn Doyon**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Treasurer
- **Sue Minter**, *co-chair*, immediate past Executive Director, Capstone Community Action, and former VTrans Secretary, State Representative, and State Director of Recovery after Tropical Storm Irene
- **David Marvin**, Founder, Butternut Mountain Farm
- **Jill Martin Diaz**, Executive Director, Vermont Asylum Assistance Project
- **Shabnam Nolan**, Executive Director, King Street Center
- **Olivia Sweetnam**, CEO, Grace Cottage Hospital
- **Peter Gregory**, Executive Director, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
- **Brian Lowe**, Principal, Assembly Theory
- **Tom Huestis**, PRAG & financial advisor to the Treasurer's Office
- Sarah Waring joined informally for this first discussion

2:00pm – 2:15pm Kickoff & Introductions of Task Force Members

Treasurer Pieciak outlined the purpose of the group and noted how the personal experiences at DFT in 2016 influenced his thinking on the creation of this Task Force – in particular how he saw examples of how coordinated action saved the state money and how uncoordinated action cost the state money. Sue Minter emphasized the importance of preparedness, highlighted the importance of emergency assistance, and discussed the role of the co-chairs.

Members introduce themselves by name and affiliation, noting various issues of interest or concern. Those issues included Head Start, HUD voucher funding, local capacity, access to justice & due process particularly at the Northern Border, tariffs, changes to tax law that could have negative long-term consequences, regulatory fairness, land conservation, housing, Medicaid for the developmentally disabled, tax-exempt municipal bonds, implications for rural hospitals (both narrow margins and tariffs or prescription drug prices but also programmatically in terms of contraception or transgender care), potential rescission of major Federal legislation (like CHIPS, IRA, IJJA, or ARPA) and agency consolidation.

2:15pm – 2:30pm Review Task Force Charge

Brian reviewed the Committee Charge clarifying the group's goals and timeline. The group discussed potential future meeting dates + that as an Advisory body, the group does not need to reach consensus.

2:30pm - 2:45pm Potential Topics for Discussion (and simple tracking tool)

The group discussed further some potential issues of interest. The Treasurer highlighted several issues for future discussion, depending on the Federal posture, including Federal withholding, or regulatory change impacting rural hospitals, risk to Medicare or Medicaid, changes to immigration enforcement, and potential tariff impacts. He also noted the potential for Opportunity Zone legislation to be extended, perhaps with a greater emphasis on rural communities. Others raised compliance concerns, the conditional use of disaster assistance, climate programs, meals in school and after school, and childhood poverty and the associated implications.

2:45pm - 2:55pm Preparation for Next Meeting & Questions

The group discussed open meeting requirements on an advisory body. Brian committed to follow up with scheduling details and a link to the tracking tool. The plan for January 22 is to hear from M&T Bank's lead economist and strategist about potential impacts on the Vermont economy as well as other Federal-level considerations and to review in advance a (likely evolving) document that captures highlights of what is known about the early actions of the new Administration.

2:55pm - 3:00pm Public Comment

No members of the public present.

3:00pm Adjourn