

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

**Trustees of Public Funds Meeting
May 1, 2025 8:30am
1 Conant Square, Brandon, VT 05733**

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent meeting of the Trustees of Public Funds.

Trustees of Public Funds in Attendance: Courtney Satz, Tanner Romano, and Laura Miner

Trustee of Public Funds Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Cecil Reniche-Smith, Jan Coolidge, Patricia Welch, Helyn Andersson, Billy Bullock, Ralph Ethier, Karen Rhodes, Claire Astone, Lindsay Romano, Doug Bailey, Janie Young, Jeff Haylon, Tom Whittaker, Carolyn Whittaker, Neil Silins, Vicki Disorda, Stephen Jupiter, Brent Beuhler

1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Tanner Romano.

Adopt Agenda as Posted or as Amended

Motion by Tanner Romano to adopt agenda as posted. Second by Courtney Satz. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

2 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Motion by Laura Miner and second by Tanner Romano to approve the Trustees of Public Funds minutes of 02/20/25. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

3 Public Comment and Participation

- I. Town Manager, Seth Hopkins, addressed the board to propose the Trust cease to distribute funding from the trust unless the **Town of Brandon** itself, the legal entity that is the unit of local government, requests funding. Additionally, Mr. Hopkins proposed a fundamental reordering of the Trust of Public Funds. He suggested the Trustees seek guidance from the Attorney General on this matter.
 - II. Discussion was opened to the public for open comment and participation. The Trustees will compile additional information, historical context, and the requested documentation for public discussion at next meeting:
 1. Where can information on the Trust of Public Funds be found?
 2. What constituted the VCC award as being valid under the guidelines of the trust?
 3. Why was the award to the VCC “done secretly”?
 4. Can copies of the invoices for the feasibility study be provided?
 6. Please clarify the amount distributed to VCC. Was it \$10k or \$20k?
 7. Why have funds not been awarded to sewer-related projects?
 8. How will monies not distributed to sewer/sanitation be repaid to the Trust?
 9. Should the operational procedures of the TOPF be reviewed by the Attorney General of an Attorney who specializes in trusts in the state of Vermont?
 10. Why doesn't the TOPF notify and hold meetings in a public place and at a time more convenient to the entire public?
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11. Other than cemetery storm damage, can you explain how the other awards fall in line with the trust?

4 New Business

I. Town of Brandon (Wastewater Treatment Facility) Funding Request

II. Brandon United Methodist Church (Bell Tower Remediation) Funding Request

A motion was made to place all applications on hold given the proposal brought forth by Mr. Hopkins. No action was taken on the above applications.

5 Next meeting

No next meeting has been scheduled.

7 Adjourn

Motion by Tanner Romano and second by Courtney Satz to adjourn. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Satz