

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, March 16, 2023
MINUTES

VLCT Board Members Present (in person): President Jessie Baker, Bill Fraser, Joe Major (12:53 p.m.) **(via Zoom):** Mary Ann Goulette, Julie Hance, Charlie Hancock, Delsie Hoyt, Ann Lawless, Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Miro Weinberger and Lucrecia Wonsor

VLCT Staff Present (in person): Executive Director Ted Brady, Seth Abbene, Jessi Hill, Karen Horn, Gwynn Zakov **(via Zoom):** Abby Friedman.

Agenda Item #1: Call to order by the President

President Jessie Baker called the meeting to order at 12:24 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda. Georgette Wolf-Ludwig moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mary Ann Goulette seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Consent Agenda

Mary Anne Goulette moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented, including approving the minutes of the February 16, 2023, VLCT Board Meeting, accepting the March personnel report, accepting the proposed personnel policy changes, and approving the Pomerleau VLCT listing agreement. Charlie Hancock seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Organizational Update

Ted Brady provided an update on the VLCT rapid response team's efforts to make Town Meeting contact updates, training on the association management system launching March 30th, the VLCT summer internship program, the local investment initiative, the local government investment pool proposal, an overview of the VLCT Town Meeting Preview and Recap, updates from risk management services, upcoming trainings from the Municipal Assistance Center (and updates on finance services and recruitment services), and the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.

Agenda Item #5: 2022 Q4 Financials

VLCT CFO Seth Abbene provided an overview of the preliminary 2022 Q4 financials. Seth explained there is no balance sheet because VLCT needs to wait for the release of the VMERS pension liability before issuing a 2022 balance sheet. He also warned these were the unaudited financial statements. Bill Fraser motioned to accept the preliminary 2022 Q4 VLCT financials as presented. Mary Ann Goulette seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #6: Legislative Update

Karen Horn provided a legislative update including discussion about S. 100 (the Senate housing bill). Bill Fraser mentioned that the Act 250 provisions of the bill are vitally important, as two developers told him they won't build more than 74 units in the Montpelier downtown because it would trigger Act 250. Charlie Hancock asked for more information about the 10/5/5 rule. Miro Weinberger asked if there was any data on how previous legislative changes to zoning rules have impacted housing starts, specifically how many Accessory Dwelling Units were created by the legislative mandate requiring they be legal. Charlie Hancock noted that one of the major reasons businesses can't open in his town is because businesses need to wait 7 months for a fire safety inspection – not because of municipal permitting. Miro Weinberger said the biggest singular regulatory barrier to building housing at scale is the double layer of review – of local and state

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permitting. Miro Weinberger shared that Burlington, South Burlington and Winooski have crafted a proposal that would delegate Act 250 review to municipalities. Miro Weinberger explained the state has done this several times before, including with shoreland protection. Bill Fraser said that the delegation of fire safety inspection to municipalities was also a good example of this. Gwynn Zakov provided additional updates on various pieces of legislation.

Agenda Item #7: Break

The Board took a break from 1:55 p.m. to 2:08 p.m.

Agenda Item #8: VLCT Board of Directors Appointment.

Ted Brady provided a summary of a recent VLCT Nominating Committee meeting, where the committee reviewed four nominations to fill the vacant seat created by the departure of Ken Linsley. He said the committee decided not to forward a recommendation for the seat vacated by David Allaire – as the committee hoped to attract an elected official from Southern Vermont to fill that seat. Joe Major moved to appoint Cabot Selectboard Chair Michael Hogan to the seat vacated by Ken Linsley – to be filled for the remainder of the term to October of 2024. Bill Fraser seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bill Fraser noted that it was tradition to have the mayors of both Rutland City and Burlington on the Board whenever possible. Ted Brady said he'd discuss the possibility of Rutland City's new mayor serving on the board during his check in phone call with the mayor.

Agenda Item #9: VLCT Equity Committee Appointments.

Mary Ann Goulette motioned to appoint Alburgh Planning Commission Matthew LeFluer, Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission Senior Planner Sarah Wraight, and Vermont Center for Independent Living Information, Referral & Assistance / Equipment Distribution Specialist Nick Morlan to the VLCT Equity Committee. Joe Major seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #10: Board Resolutions.

Mary Ann Goulette motioned to approve the resolutions honoring Mayor Allaire, Mayor Monette, and Mayor Watson. Georgette Wolf-Ludwig seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #11: Executive Session.

Lucrecia Wonsor made the following motion: "Because it is time for our annual evaluation of the executive director, I move that we go into executive session to discuss the evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a) (3) of the Vermont Statutes." Mary Ann Goulette seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by Jessie Baker upon the end of Executive Session at approximately 2:55 p.m. No action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Brady
Executive Director

As adopted by the VLCT Board of Directors on April 20, 2023