

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 2025

MINUTES

VLCT Board Members Present (in person): Bill Fraser, Julie Hance, Mike Hogan, Charlie Hancock, Delsie Hoyt, Jesse Baker, Karen Barber, Mary Ann Goulette.

VLCT Board Members Present (via Zoom): Mayor Doenges, Mayor Lott, Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak.

VLCT Staff Present (in person): Ted Brady, Josh Hanford, Seth Abbene, Jeremy Weiss.

VLCT Staff Present (via Zoom): Kelley Avery

Agenda Item #1: Call to order by the President

President Bill Fraser called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Ted Brady recommended that the Board amend the agenda to move agenda item “8: Make Officer and Board Appointments” to later in the agenda and add before Agenda item #13. This change was approved without objection.

Agenda Item #3: Consent Agenda

Mayor Doenges moved to approve the minutes of January 16, 2025, and accept the March Personnel Report. Mike Hogan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Organizational Update

Ted Brady provided updates on the Risk Management Director search, Building Committee, Health Insurance Investigations, Town Meeting Updates, NLC Summit and Hill visit recap, Local Government Investment Pool, Municipal Assistance Center training, the launch of Local Government Institute 2.0, MAC Legal Inquiries year to date, Risk Management Services, and VLCT news highlights.

Agenda Item #5: Accept Q4 VLCT Financial Statement

Seth Abbene provided an update on the Q4 Financials. Ted alerted the Board to a possible future change in the lease agreement with the food bank. Charlie Hancock moved to accept the Q4 financial statement. Mary Ann Goulette seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #6: Equity Committee Work Plan

Ted discussed the 2025 Equity Committee work plan. Jessie Baker moved to table this item until next VLCT Board of Directors meeting. Mayor Doenges seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #7: Acrisure Business Alliance Membership/ Benefits Agreement Discussion

Ted Brady discussed adding Acrisure as a Business Alliance Partner. Acrisure has agreed to this membership and has asked VLCT to sign a benefits agreement. Ted mentioned he will need to have a legal review of this document. VLCT used to have a cost share agreement with Hickok and Boardman. Since Acrisure took over, they removed the cost-sharing agreement as VLCT does not have an insurance broker on staff. Karen Barber asked to add a 1-year sunset to this agreement clause so the board can review in the future. Mary Ann Goulette moved to authorize the executive director to sign the agreement with the addition of a 1-year term and any changes recommended post legal review. Mayor Doenges seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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Agenda Item #8: Make Officer and Board Appointments

This item was rescheduled to be taken up after Agenda Item #12. With the resignation of Board president Bill Fraser at the conclusion of this meeting, per the bylaws, Mary Ann Goulette becomes the new VLCT President. Jessie Baker remains as past president. The nominating committee recommends Charlie Hancock as the new Vice-President and Tom Leitz, Waterbury Town Manager, as Director. Mayor Lott moved to approve the recommendation of the nominating committee. Georgette seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Bill Fraser offered remarks at the conclusion of his tenure with the Board. Ted Brady presented a token of appreciation to outgoing President Bill Fraser on behalf of the Board and staff, expressing gratitude for his 18 years of dedicated service to the VLCT Board of Directors.

Agenda Item #9: Break

At 1:34 the Board took a break. No business was conducted at this time. The Board reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

Agenda Item #10: Legislative Update

Josh delivered the legislative update highlighting the issues surrounding the recently vetoed Budget Adjustment Act of 2025, issues surrounding education funding, and housing bills in both the House and Senate.

Agenda Item #11: VLCT Executive Director Evaluation Plan

No action taken on this item. Ted asked Board members to get their evaluation forms submitted.

Agenda Item #12 Executive Session (If necessary)

Charlie Hancock moved the VLCT Executive Committee enter executive session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). The motion was seconded by Mike Hogan and the Board went into executive session.

Coming out of executive session, Charlie Hancock moved to direct Ted to continue the staffing related work associated with the USDA Rural Development grant through to December 31, 2025, reestablish fees associated with trainings that we covered by those grant funds, and at the next meeting include a more in-depth conversation around federal funding related to DEI initiatives so the Board can make a more informed decision about actions to take. The motion was seconded by Georgette. The motion was approved unanimously. Charlie Hancock requested that staff prepare an analysis of current and potential future federal funding sources that may be impacted by changes in federal funding policy.

Agenda Item #13: Other Business

No other business conducted.

Agenda Item #14: Adjourn

At 3:37 p.m. Charlie Hancock moved to adjourn. Mike Hogan seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Weiss,

Membership and Administrative Coordinator

As approved by the VLCT Board of Directors on April, 17 2025.

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View Meeting here:

****Due to staff error the video begins part of the way through agenda item #4.****

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/K1U4SDUehzVmPYO52IWvTpygJ3R1fEQjMewCyZTxhZpUqF4pUrd_DjT1OXEUCA-lkMERcS9NL5tEwN7A.z6avFIq4yyOwm7Cn