

**Minutes of the 2024 Joint Annual Meeting of the Membership
Vermont League of Cities & Towns,
VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund and the
VLCT Employment Resource & Benefits Trust, Inc.**

**October 1, 2024 – Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, VT
and via ZOOM**

VLCT Board members present: Jessie Baker, Mike Doenges, Bill Fraser, Mary Ann Goulette, Julie Hance Charles Hancock, Michael Hogan, Delsie Hoyt, Ann Lawless, Kristine Lott (remote), Joseph Major (remote) and Georgette Wolf-Ludwig

PACIF/VERB Board members present: David Atherton (PACIF-remote), Aaron Frank (PACIF), Judy Frazier (PACIF/VERB-remote), Rob Gaiotti (PACIF-remote), Jackie Higgins (PACIF), Patrick Moreland (PACIF-remote), Kelly Murphy (PACIF/VERB), Charles Safford (PACIF/VERB), Bruce Urie (PACIF), Erik Wells (PACIF-remote) and Bryan Young (PACIF/VERB)

Others present: Drew Pettis (P/V), Alexander McCracken (P/V/L), Nicolas Storrellicastro (P/V/L), Christopher Violette (P/V/L), Nikki Stevens, Emma Mulvaney Stanak (L), Betty Ritter (P/V/L), Kari Bradley, Michael Jones, Kelly Devine (P/V/L), Michelle Leclerc (P/V/L), Tabi Freedman (P/V), Thomas Leitz (P/V/L), Elaine Haney (P/V/L), Andy Watts (P/V/L), Peter Berger (P/V/L), Morgan Wilbur (P/V/L), Karen Barber (P/V/L), Jessica Alexander (P/V/L), Erik Bailey (P/V), Lucrecia Wonsor (P/V/L), Tracy Bodeo (P/V/L), Scott Murphy (P/V/L), Andy Hooper (P/V/L), John Bartlett (P/L), Sol Alfonso (P/V/L), Karen Horn (P/V/L), Linda Sullivan (P/V/L), Corinn Julow (P/V/L), Cheryl Lindberg, Jay Furr (P/V/L), Rene Bouchard (P/L), Joshua Bushrod Powers (P/V/L), Jeffrey Haslett, Amy Howlett (P), Matt Lawless (P/V/L), Jeffrey Mobus (P/V/L), Sean Adkins (P/V/L), Ron Redmond (P/L), Patricia Sagui (P/L), Scott Tucker (P/L), Daniel Koeneman (P)

VLCT Executive Director Ted Brady welcomed all to the meeting and turned the meeting over to VLCT Board President Bill Fraser, who called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M. President Fraser thanked the members of the PACIF and VERB boards for approving him as facilitator of today's joint annual meeting.

President Fraser asked for a motion and a second from members representing all of VLCT, PACIF and VERB to adopt the agenda for today's joint annual meeting. On motion duly made by Charles Safford of Stowe and seconded by Mary Ann Goulette of West Rutland, the agenda was adopted unanimously.

Executive Director Ted Brady introduced the governing rules of the VLCT/PACIF/VERB Annual Meeting, and President Fraser asked for a motion to adopt the rules. On motion duly made by Alexander McCracken of Alburgh Town and seconded by Julie Hance of Chester, the rules were adopted unanimously.

President Fraser asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the VLCT, VERB and PACIF 2023 Annual meetings. On motion duly made by Charles Safford of Stowe and seconded by Julie Hance of Chester, the minutes were approved. There were two abstentions.

VLCT's Chief Financial Officer Seth Abbene presented the 2023 financial audit reports for PACIF and VERB and the preliminary financial audit report for 2023 for VLCT. President Fraser asked for a motion to accept the reports. On motion duly made by Julie Hance of Chester and seconded by Bryan Young of Orwell, the reports were approved unanimously.

Executive Director Ted Brady presented his annual organizational update to the membership.

Jessie Baker, City Manager of South Burlington and chair of the VLCT Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates and officers for the VLCT Board of Directors. The committee recommends the following VLCT board members be elected for two-year terms expiring in October of 2024:

- Mike Doenges, Mayor, City of Rutland
- Julie Hance, Town Manager, Chester
- Mike Hogan, Selectboard Chair, Cabot
- Ann Lawless, Selectboard Chair, Wheelock
- Emma Mulvany-Stanak, Mayor, City of Burlington

The VLCT Nominating Committee further recommends the following officers be elected:

- President: Bill Fraser, City Manager, City of Montpelier
- Vice President: Mary Ann Goulette, Town Manager, Town of West Rutland

President Fraser requested a motion to elect the slate as proposed by the VLCT Nominating Committee. On motion duly made by Scott Tucker of Wilmington and seconded by Lucrecia Wonsor of Killington the report was accepted unanimously.

Aaron Frank, Colchester Town Manager and chair of the PACIF Nominating Committee, presented the PACIF Nominating Committee report.

The committee recommends the following PACIF Board members serve one more year until December 31, 2025: Dave Atherton, Town of Brandon; Judy Frazier Town of Proctor; Rob Gaiotti, Town of Dorset and Patrick Moreland, Town of Brattleboro.

The committee further recommends the following board members serve two more years until December 31, 2026: Aaron Frank, Town of Colchester; Charles Safford, Town of Stowe; Bruce Urie, Town of Craftsbury and Erik Wells, Town of Williston.

The committee is also required to submit nominations to fill up to four, three-year terms. The committee recommends the following candidates to serve three-year terms until December 31, 2027: Jackie Higgins, Town of Williamstown; Kelly Murphy, City of Montpelier and Bryan Young, Town of Orwell.

President Fraser asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he requested a motion to elect the slate as proposed by the PACIF Nominating Committee . On motion duly made by Charles Safford of Stowe and seconded by Erik Bailey of Johnson Village the report was accepted unanimously.

Bryan Young, Treasurer for the Town of Orwell and chair of the VERB Nominating Committee, presented the VERB Nominating Committee report. The committee recommends the following members serve one more year until December 31, 2025: Judy Frazier, Town of Proctor; Todd Odit, Town of Hinesburg and Charles Safford, Town of Stowe.

The committee further recommends the following member serve two more years until December 31, 2026: Bryan Young, Town of Orwell.

The committee is also required to submit nominations to fill up to three, three-year terms. The committee recommends the following member serve a three-year term until December 31, 2027: Kelly Murphy, City of Montpelier.

President Fraser asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he requested a motion to elect the slate as proposed by the VERB Nominating Committee. On motion duly made from Aaron Frank of Colchester and seconded by Mary Ann Goulette of West Rutland, the report was accepted unanimously.

Executive Director Ted Brady reviewed the process for voting on and adopting the Draft 2025-2026 VLCT Municipal Policy. Ted Brady first reviewed the Guiding Principles of the policy and requested a motion to adopt this section. On motion duly made by VLCT Board President Bill Fraser of Montpelier City and seconded by Charles Safford of Stowe, the Guiding Principles were adopted unanimously.

Mary Ann Goulette, Chair of the Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) Policy Committee and Town Manager of West Rutland, reviewed the focus of the committee work and announced the names of the committee members. Chair Goulette requested a motion to approve the non-controversial portions of Section 1.0 Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR). Executive Director Ted Brady pointed out that sections 1.3, 1.4., 1.5 and 1.6 were misnumbered in the annual meeting guide and noted the corrections. Item 1.3.2 was held for further discussion. On motion duly made by Bill Fraser of the City of Montpelier and seconded by Julie Hance of Chester, the non-controversial portions of Section 1.0 were approved and adopted unanimously.

Mayor Mulvany-Stanak of the City of Burlington requested further clarification on the language in Section 1.3.2., which was discussed. No revisions were requested to this section. On motion from Bill Fraser from the City of Montpelier and seconded by Mike Doenges of Rutland City, Section 1.3.2 was adopted as written and approved unanimously.

Delsie Hoyt, Chair of the Transportation Policy Committee and Chair of the West Fairlee Selectboard, reviewed the focus of the committee work and announced the names of the

committee members. Chair Hoyt requested a motion to approve the non-controversial portions of Section 2.0, Transportation. Upon motion duly made by Bill Fraser of the City of Montpelier and seconded by Charles Safford of Stowe, the non-controversial portions of Section 2.0 were approved and adopted unanimously. Sections 2.1.4, 2.2.7, 2.3.2 and 2.5.4 were held for further discussion.

Ted Brady requested a motion to approve and adopt Section 2.1.4 as written. The motion was made by Delsie Hoyt of West Fairlee and seconded by Mike Hogan of Cabot. Upon discussion, Matt Lawless of Shelburne requested this section be amended to add the language “reduce the number of total vehicle miles traveled and reduce the number of crash fatalities.” On motion duly made by Matt Lawless of Shelburne and seconded by Mike Doenges of Rutland City, the motion to accept the amendment language passed. Executive Director Ted Brady requested a motion to adopt Section 2.1.4 as amended. On motion duly made by Delsie Hoyt of West Fairlee and seconded by Mike Hogan of Cabot, the motion passed unanimously.

Ted Brady requested a motion to approve and adopt Section 2.2.7 as written. The motion was made by Delsie Hoyt of West Fairlee and seconded by Georgette Wolf-Ludwig of Fairlee. Upon discussion, Mayor Mulvany-Stanak of the City of Burlington requested that the section be amended to insert the phrase “preserves existing routes” after the phrase “support the social services.” On motion, duly made by Mayor Mulvany-Stanak of the City of Burlington and seconded by Elaine Haney of the City of Essex Junction, the amendment passed. Executive Director Ted Brady requested a motion to adopt Section 2.2.7 as amended. On motion duly made by Delsie Hoyt of West Fairlee and seconded by Georgette Wolf-Ludwig of Fairlee, the motion to adopt the policy as amended was passed.

Ted Brady requested a motion to approve and adopt Section 2.3.2 as written. The motion was made by Delsie Hoyt of West Fairlee and seconded by Georgette Wolf-Ludwig of Fairlee. Tabi Freedman of Dover requested further clarification on the language in this section. There was no request to revise the section language. The motion passed unanimously to approve and adopt the section as written.

Ted Brady requested a motion to approve and adopt Section 2.5.4 as written. The motion was duly made by Delsie Hoyt of West Fairlee and seconded by Mike Hogan of Cabot. Upon discussion, Patrick Moreland of Battleboro requested the language in this section be revised from “service from Bennington to Montreal” to “service between Vermont and Montreal”. On motion duly made by Patrick Morland of Brattleboro and seconded by Charles Safford of Stowe, the amendment language passed. Executive Director Ted Brady requested a motion to adopt Section 2.5.4 as amended. Upon motion duly made by Delsie Hoyt of West Fairlee and seconded by Mike Hogan of Cabot, the motion to adopt the policy as amended passed unanimously.

Kristine Lott, Chair of the Public Safety Policy Committee and Mayor of the City of Winooski, reviewed the focus of the committee work and announced the names of the committee members. Ted Brady requested a motion to accept the non-controversial portions of Section 3.0, Public Safety. Upon motion duly made by Bill Fraser of the City of Montpelier and seconded by Julie Hance of Chester, the non-controversial portions of Section 3.0 were approved and adopted

unanimously. Section 3.1 was held to add a new portion 3.1.7, and Sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.4.8 were held for further discussion.

Upon discussion of Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak of the City of Burlington requested the language “drug abuse” and “addiction” be changed to “substance use” and “substance use disorder” respectively. On motion duly made by Emma Mulvany-Stanak of Burlington, seconded by Mike Doenges of Rutland City, the proposed new language was approved. Executive Director Ted Brady requested a motion to adopt Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 as amended. On motion duly made by Kristine Lott of Winooski and seconded by Mary Ann Goulette from West Rutland, these sections were approved and adopted as amended. The vote was unanimous.

Ted Brady requested a motion to approve and adopt Section 3.4.8 as written. The motion was made by Kristine Lott of Winooski and seconded by Charles Stafford of Stowe. Upon discussion, Erik Bailey of Johnson Village moved to strike this section. The motion was seconded by Jackie Higgins from Williamstown. Several members expressed support for the provision as written and opposed striking the section. The motion did not carry. Upon motion from Kristine Lott of Winooski and seconded by Charles Stafford of Stowe, the motion passed to approve and adopt Section 3.4.8 as written.

Ted Brady looked for a motion to add a new Section 3.1.7. Upon motion from Jay Furr of Richmond, the motion was made to add and adopt new Section 3.1.7 to read “To permit municipalities to provide tax incentives to assist in recruiting firefighters and explore other possible means of increasing Fire Department staffing.” The motion was seconded by Alexander McCracken from Alburgh Town. The motion passed unanimously.

Following action on 3.1.7, Ted Brady explained to the body that only full VLCT members may vote in the policy adoption process. Because Johnson Village is not a full member, and the member from the village moved the motion to strike 3.4.8 despite not having voting authority, he asked if there were any objections to accepting the results of the vote to strike. Hearing no objections, the vote to strike and the vote to adopt the section remained unchanged.

Michael Doenges, Chair of the Quality of Life and Housing Policy Committee and Mayor of the City of Rutland, thanked VLCT staff for their legislative efforts and assistance in developing these policies, reviewed the focus of the committee work and announced the names of the committee members. Mayor Doenges requested a motion to accept the non-controversial portions of Section 4.0, Quality of Life and Housing. The motion was duly made by Bill Fraser of the City of Montpelier and seconded by Aaron Frank from Colchester to approve and adopt Section 4.0 as written. There were no holds on this section. The motion passed unanimously.

Charlie Hancock, Chair of the Environment Policy Committee and chair of the Montgomery Selectboard thanked VLCT and staff and committee members, reviewed the focus of the committee work and announced the names of the committee members. Chair Hancock requested a motion to accept and adopt the non-controversial portions of Section 5.0, Environment. The motion was duly made from Bill Fraser of Montpelier City and seconded by Julie Hance to

approve and adopt Section 5.0 as written. There were no holds on this section. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott Tucker from Wilmington noted the heading for Section 3.5 also contained the term “addiction” and recommended that language also be changed to “substance use disorder” in accordance with the requested wording from Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak. President Fraser asked if there was any opposition to changing the heading. Hearing none, the membership approved the heading language change for Section 3.5 by unanimous consent.

President Fraser thanked staff for their assistance, thanked everyone for attending this joint annual meeting and invited everyone to please join them in person tomorrow for the Town Fair in Killington. He reviewed the schedule of the day’s events for Town Fair. There was no other business brought before the joint annual meeting.

By motion duly made by Charles Safford of Stowe and seconded by Julie Hance of Chester, the annual meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kelley Avery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kelley" and last name "Avery" clearly distinguishable.

Kelley Avery
Assistant Secretary, VERB Board

Link to meeting recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/kZaeAlWD3hB0U6EQwag2tLnC6TJ_wE5fvTXa_bX1b0WyXqnawDPQPrfbgJSq-cG.jHroHUzFMma87H8k