

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Friday, August 22, 2025

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Mary Ann Goulette (in person), Jessie Baker, Aaron Frank (in person), Todd Odit, Rob Gaiotti, Charles Safford (in person) and Kelly Murphy (in person).

VLCT Staff Present (in person): Phil Latvis, Ted Brady, Abby Friedman, Seth Abbene, Jessi Hill

Agenda Item #1: Call to order by the President

VLCT Board President Mary Ann Goulette called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

PACIF Board Chair Aaron Frank moved to approve the agenda as is. PACIF Board Member Kelly Murphy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Approve Minutes of 2025 Budget Advisory Committee

VERB Chair Charles Safford moved to approve the minutes as presented. VLCT Immediate Past President Jessie Baker seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Review 2026 Proposed Budget

Seth Abbene presented the draft 2026 proposed VLCT Budget including budgeted revenue up 1.5 percent to \$9,373,636 and expenses up 1.7 percent to \$9,383,585 over 2025. The budget proposed to increase dues by 3 percent and increase trust agreement revenue by 2.1 percent compared to 2025. Ted provided an overview of how the VLCT budget impacted trust budgets, which are finalized after the VLCT budget is adopted by the VLCT Board. He reminded the committee of how the administrative agreements and addendums work each year, and shared that VLCT's process looks very similar to other municipal associations. He shared he surveyed Maine, Massachusetts and Minnesota, all of which have a similar direct and indirect rate process as VLCT. He noted that they all also have institutional fees designed to compensate the member association for other institutional value the association provided the trusts – something VLCT does not have. Seth Abbene presented several budget exhibits prepared at the request of Aaron Frank that demonstrated the portion of the VLCT budget covered by trust revenues and historical changes since 2000. Aaron Frank expressed his desire to discuss the indirect rate VLCT charges PACIF.

Agenda Item #6: Executive Session

Aaron Frank moved to go into executive session to discuss contractual negotiations between VLCT, VERB and PACIF on grounds that premature general public knowledge would clearly place VERB, PACIF and VLCT at a substantial disadvantage in contract negotiations between the organizations. He invited the Executive Director to participate in the executive session and asked the executive director to invite staff into the session as necessary to answer any questions the committee may have. The motion was seconded by PACIF Board Member Todd Odit. The motion carried unanimously and the committee went into executive session at 10:43 a.m.

At 11:37 a.m., the committee exited executive session. Mary Ann Goulette stated no action was taken during executive session.

Charles Safford moved to recommend the VLCT Board approve the 2026 proposed VLCT budget. Kelly Murphy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Agenda Item #7: Other Business

Ted reminded the committee that Town Fair will take place on October 8th, and the next PACIF, VERB and VLCT Board meetings, and annual meetings, will occur on October 7th. Committee members were asked to register as soon as possible.

Ted also reminded committee members that nominations for Municipal Service Awards are due this week.

Agenda Item #8: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Brady

Executive Director

View Meeting here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/t6amk92CcKQjOQl_FliY5oGZeIlaK_9S2jyWjW_hRo2WeH5G7IPunKnAIYbov4M.uFK7U5QEZ62enYpi