

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2026

MINUTES

VLCT Board Members Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Jessie Baker, Karen Barber (via Zoom), Julie Hance, Michael Hogan, Ann Lawless, Emma Mulvaney-Stanak (via Zoom), Kyle Rowe, Scott Tucker, and Brian Shupe.

VLCT Staff Present: Ted Brady, Katie Buckley, Seth Abbene, Jessi Hill, Phil Latvis (Via Zoom), Alison Buckley (via Zoom), Lisa Godell (Via Zoom), and Jeremy Weiss.

Guests Present: Sarah Thayer, DeltaDental and Gary Kupferer, VLCT Legal Counsel.

Agenda Item #1: Call to order by the President

President Mary Ann Goulette called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Kyle Rowe moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jessie Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Consent Agenda

Kyle Rowe moved to approve the consent agenda including the meeting minutes of July 16, 2026, September Personnel report, and September Organizational Update. Jessie Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Offering DeltaVision to Membership

The Board then considered a proposal to transition VLCT's vision insurance offering from EyeMed Direct to DeltaVision beginning in 2027. Ted explained that the change would provide members with comparable coverage at a lower cost while increasing VLCT's commission. Kelley Avery noted that, although VLCT has had a long-standing relationship with EyeMed, billing and administrative issues have created ongoing concerns for both members and staff. With the current rate guarantee ending this year, staff viewed the transition to DeltaVision as an opportunity to simplify administration, consolidate billing, and provide members with cost savings. Sarah Thayer of Delta Dental confirmed that the DeltaVision plans closely mirror VLCT's existing offerings and that enrollment and billing would be streamlined through the existing group administration portal and established account-management relationship.

Mike Hogan moved to approve the proposal to transition to DeltaVision for coverage effective January 1, 2027. Kyle Rowe seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5: Executive Session to Discuss VLCT / PACIF / VERB Administrative Agreements

Scott Tucker moved that the evaluation and discussion of the Board's goals and strategies regarding the anticipated modifications of our administrative contracts with PACIF and VERB be needed. The public disclosure of the discussion of these goals and strategies would clearly place VLCT at a substantial disadvantage. Scott moved that the Board find the public disclosure of the discussion of the Board's goals and strategies would clearly place VLCT at a substantial disadvantage and therefore the Board should go into executive session in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the PACIF and VERB

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2026

administrative contracts and include the Executive Director Ted Brady, CFO Seth Abbene, Director of Operations Jessi Hill and VLCT Attorney Gary Kupferer to join. Kyle Rowe seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 12:29 p.m., the Board entered executive session. The recording was paused and all other staff left the room.

Emma Mulvaney-Stanak left the executive session at 1:00 p.m. She returned shortly before the end of executive session.

At 1:43 p.m. the Board exited executive session.

Agenda Item #6: Recommend a Slate of Directors and Officers for Membership to Consider at the 2026 Election and Appoint a Board Member to Vacant Director Seat with Term Expiring October 2027

Jessie Baker gave a summary of the Nominating Committee meeting and provided the committee's recommendation for five director positions with terms expiring October 2026.

The recommendations were as follows:

- **Julie Hance, Chester Town Manager**
- **Ann Lawless, Wheelock Selectboard Chair**
- **Mike Hogan, Cabot Selectboard Chair**
- **Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, City of Burlington Mayor**
- **Ben Brickner, Pomfret Selectboard Chair**

The Nominating Committee recommends for the office of President and Vice President:

- **President: Mary Ann Goulette, Town Manager, Town of West Rutland**
- **Vice President: Charlie Hancock, Selectboard, Town of Montgomery**

Additionally, the Committee recommends the Board appoint the following member to the vacant seat with a term expiring in October of 2027:

- **Zoe Contros Kearn, Shaftsbury Selectboard Chair**

Scott Tucker moved to recommend the Nominating Committee's slate to the full membership for election and to appoint Zoe Contros Kearn to the vacant seat. Brian Shupe seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #7: Name 2026 VLCT Municipal Service Awardees

The Nominating Committee reviewed nominations for the Municipal Service Awards and recommended Lori Hirshfeld, Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of Hartford, for the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Committee noted Hirshfeld's more than 30 years of service, her statewide reputation and advocacy for tax increment financing (TIF), and her long-standing involvement with the Vermont Planners Association. While she has not been extensively involved with VLCT, staff have regularly relied on her expertise and viewed her as a strong ally to VLCT and Vermont municipalities.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2026

The Committee also reviewed 20 nominations for the Municipal Service Award. Because many of the nominations did not demonstrate service beyond the nominee's own municipality, the Committee recommended Catherine McMains of Jericho, who had originally been considered for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. McMains has served as a municipal volunteer in Jericho for more than two decades and previously chaired the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, demonstrating a broader commitment to municipal issues. The Legislative Policy Committee did not recommend a recipient for the Legislative Service Award this year. The Board also heard that the plaques recognizing award recipients, which had not been updated in approximately ten years, would be brought up to date before the end of the fiscal year.

Ann Lawless moved to award the Lifetime Achievement Award to Lori Hirshfeld and the Municipal Service Award to Catherine McMains. Mike Hogan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #8: Accept VLCT 2026 Q2 Financials

Seth Abbene presented the Q2 financials. Jessie Baker moved to accept the Q2 financials as presented. Kyle Rowe seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #9: Break

A break was taken immediately following the executive session.

Agenda Item #10: Review and Recommend Adoption of 2027/2028 Municipal Policy

The Board received an update on the work of the Municipal Policy Committee over the summer. Staff thanked Karen and Kyle for serving as chair and vice chair and noted that the committee included 13 policy members and two ex officio members representing 10 counties and 13 municipalities, ranging from the state's smallest to largest communities and bringing a wide range of municipal roles and experience. The committee met eight times since July, generally for more than 90 minutes per meeting, and was described as highly engaged throughout the process. Staff reviewed the memo outlining the committee's work in response to the Board's charge, including revenue authority, new financial support for transportation, and intermunicipal government and regionalization, as well as several new policy proposals. The Board was also asked to consider whether the draft policies adequately reflected the most important issues facing member communities.

The Board then discussed the one policy issue that had not received unanimous support from the Municipal Policy Committee: remote participation and voting at Town Meeting as a potential ADA accommodation. Josh Hanford explained that the committee had considered a request from Susan Clark, a VLCT member and former participant in the Act 133 Open Meeting Law stakeholder group, and ultimately voted narrowly to include a policy recommendation to allow remote participation and voting at Town meeting, if authorized by the town voters. Board members discussed the potential benefits of greater accessibility, as well as concerns about voter verification, legal and administrative challenges, broadband access, the capacity of smaller municipalities to manage remote participation, and the potential effect on Vermont's traditional floor-meeting form of local democracy. The discussion also touched on alternative approaches,

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2026

including Australian ballot voting, reasonable accommodations for individual voters, and the possibility of further developing a policy proposal for future consideration rather than advancing it at this time.

Following discussion, Jessie Baker moved to remove Section 1.4.6 concerning remote participation at Town Meeting, from the recommended municipal policy statement for the next biennium. Karen Barber seconded the motion. The motion was approved via roll call vote.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

Name	Muni	ROLL CALL (Y, N)
MARY ANN GOULETTE	WEST RUTLAND	Y
CHARLIE HANCOCK	MONTGOMERY	ABSENT
JESSIE BAKER	SO BURLINGTON	Y
KAREN BARBER	HUNTINGTON	Y
TRACY BORST	THETFORD	ABSENT
JULIE HANCE	CHESTER	Y
MIKE HOGAN	CABOT	Y
ANN LAWLESS	WHEELOCK	Y
EMMA MULVANEY-STANAK	BURLINGTON	N
KYLE ROWE	PANTON	Y
BRIAN SHUPE	WAITSFILD	Y
SCOTT TUCKER	WILMINGTON	Y

The Board reviewed proposed updates to VLCT's Municipal Policy, including expanded municipal revenue authority, transportation funding, intermunicipal cooperation, and other priority areas. Discussion focused on local option taxes and the Local Option Transportation Fund, with members considering the differing impacts on municipalities and the importance of maintaining local choice in adopting revenue tools. The Board also discussed proposed changes to municipal bridge inspection and rating standards, homelessness and human services funding, environmental priorities, and VMERS provisions intended to support municipal employee recruitment and retention while maintaining pension stability.

Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak moved to amend Policy 4.4.5 to amend it to read "provide municipalities with resources to provide basic public health amenities and to removing hazardous materials and encampments from public spaces". Mike Hogan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Following further discussion of the proposed Municipal Policy, Kyle Rowe moved to recommend the 2027-2028 Municipal Policy to the full membership for approval. The motion was seconded by Mike Hogan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #11: Town Fair Preview

Allison Buckley provided an update on Town Fair. During the update, the Zoom feed froze due to a technical issue.

Agenda Item #12: Other Business

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2026

No other business was discussed.

Agenda Item #13: Adjourn

Mike Hogan moved to adjourn. Kyle Rowe seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Weiss

Membership and Administrative Coordinator

As approved by VLCT Board of Directors on October 1, 2026.

View Meeting here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8vZUNQiV4jpcRyHUjGNPBfWLH81wH6KSMTxgM4xJnQ_GrOk.aAybwMG5IAIh21zX