VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2025 Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and in Person at VLCT Offices

Minutes

Present: West Ruland Town Manager Mary Ann Goulette, Montgomery Selectboard Chair Charlie Hancock, South Burlington City Manager Jessie Baker, and VLCT Executive Director Ted Brady

Mary Ann called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Mary Ann asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Jessie moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mary Ann seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Jessie moved to approve the VLCT Executive Committee minutes of September 10, 2025, and June 5, 2025. Charlie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ted provided a preview of the legislative topics to be discussed at the VLCT Board meeting, including agricultural zoning, the Act 133 Open Meeting Law working group recommendations, and regional governance.

Ted shared that VLCT and the Agency of Agriculture have been discussing draft language that would largely re-institute a ban on municipal zoning regulation of agriculture. Charlie raised questions about how the proposed changes to the definition of agriculture to address VLCT's concerns might impact current use – and asked that we address this during the Board meeting.

Ted also shared that an Open Meeting Law working group led by the Secretary of State is likely to include several recommendations and best practices – including mandating hybrid meetings – that disability advocates are championing. He expects the draft report to be out soon. Charlie asked if the requested changes are related to the Americans with Disabilities Act Section 2 changes that municipalities need to comply with. Ted shared he believed those were unrelated, and had to do with mobile device and website updates. However, he said he'd bring answers to the Board meeting.

Finally, Ted asked the Executive Committee for their input on whether they'd support amending VLCT's municipal policy, or adopting a municipal priority at the next Board meeting, that would support use of the county tax to run a council of governments pilot project in Windham County to provide law enforcement services through the Sherriff's office. VLCT's current municipal policy calls for legislative approval of the county tax. All three members of the Executive Committee indicated they'd support having the conversation at the Board level, and saw promise in the council of governments idea. However, Charlie pointed out that asking selectboards to attend more meetings was not a viable solution. Jessie shared that she hoped the COG concept would allow for more boards and meetings to collapse into the COG.

Ted shared a draft agenda for the November 20th Board meeting. The Executive Committee had no recommended changes.

At 3:29 p.m., Jessie moved that the VLCT Executive Committee enter executive session in accordance with 1 VSA Section 313 (a)(3) related to the appointment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Charlie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 3:41 p.m., the Executive Committee came out of executive session	 Mary Ann stated no action was taken
during the executive session, and no action was to be taken after.	
At 3:41 p.m., Mary Ann adjourned the meeting.	

To view a recording of the meeting, click <u>here.</u>