

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, January 16, 2025

MINUTES

VLCT Board Members Present (in person): Bill Fraser, Julie Hance, Mike Hogan.

VLCT Board Members Present (via Zoom): Charlie Hancock, Mayor Doenges, Delsie Hoyt, Jesse Baker, Mayor Lott, Karen Barber, Ann Lawless, Mary Ann Goulette, Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak.

VLCT Staff Present (in person): Ted Brady, Josh Hanford, Samantha Sheehan, Jessi Hill, Katie Buckley, Jeremy Weiss.

VLCT Staff Present (via Zoom): Emmanuel Ajanma, Abby Friedman, Garrett Baxter.

Others Present: Kevin O'Toole, Chris Louras.

Agenda Item #1: Call to order by the President

President Bill Fraser called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m.

Agenda Item #2: Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda.

Agenda Item #3: Consent Agenda

Julie Hance moved to approve the minutes of December 19, 2024, and accept the January Personnel Report. Jessie Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Organizational Update

Ted Brady provided updates on the launch of the search for the new RMS Director, Building Committee, Acrisure benefits contract negotiations, a new state and local cyber security grant opportunity, USDA Rural Development Disaster Fund opportunity, Municipal Operations Assistance Team, Municipal Assistance Center, the Equity Committee, VLCT Municipal Assistance Center Action Item Summary for 2024, upcoming trainings, and VLCT highlights in the news.

Agenda Item #5: Burlington Amicus Brief Request

Garret Baxter, MAC Senior Staff Attorney, presented the amicus request, asking the Board to authorize VLCT Municipal Assistance Center staff to prepare and submit an amicus brief to the Vermont Supreme Court in support of the City of Burlington in the case *32 Intervale, LLC et al v. City of Burlington*, 24-AP 391. Karen Barber moved to approve the request. Jessie Baker seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak abstained from the vote.

Agenda Item #6: Legislative Update

Josh Hanford provided an update on the first few days of the 2025 Biennial Session highlighting key developments, including the outcome of the contested speaker election in the House, the shake-up of committee chairs in both the House and Senate, and the increased attention for both bodies to address affordability issues in Vermont.

Kevin O'Toole then joined the Board to provide an update on the Act 106 report on tax sales.

Samantha Sheehan presented the Let's Build Homes campaign, an initiative VLCT and many other organizations have endorsed, aimed at creating 30,000 new homes of all affordability types to address the severe housing shortage currently facing Vermont.

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Agenda Item #7: Break

At 1:46 the Board took a break. No business was conducted at this time. The Board reconvened at 1:58 p.m.

Agenda Item #8: General Assistance Emergency Task Force Update

At the start of this agenda item, Chris Louras, City of Rutland Homeless Response Coordinator, was not immediately available. The Board proceeded with Agenda item #10 and planned to return to this item when Chris arrived. Upon his arrival, the Board resumed this agenda item. Chris, who serves as VLCT's appointee to the General Assistance Emergency Taskforce, provided an update on the Task Force's months long process and final report.

Agenda Item #9: Consider VLCT Support for Homelessness Budget Adjustment Act Proposal

The Board discussed the concerns municipalities have with the state's continued use of motels to house homeless people and the cost shifting that has occurred to municipal budgets as a result of the state's inadequate support for houseless Vermonters as they come out of the motels. Josh presented a memo to the Governor and Legislators that municipal leaders, housing advocates, and mental health providers have been working on since the early fall (when VLCT assisted with a press conference on the topic), calling on resources and policy changes in the Budget Adjustment Act to address the homelessness crisis. Karen Barber requested that the memo be amended to include additional funding for AHS to accomplish the tasks requested in the memo.. Mayor Emma moved that VLCT sign the memo. Mayor Lott seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #10: Vermont Association Hub Memorandum of Understanding

Ted requested the Board's approval to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Vermont Realtors Association and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and to allocate up to \$50,000 for pre-development work on the Association Hub project. Ted clarified that this would not commit VLCT to any further spending or select a specific vendor, but would express the intent to allocate the funds and hire a development consultant to advance to the next phase of the project. Mike Hogan moved to approve Ted's request. Julie Hance seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #11: Executive Session (If necessary)

No executive session necessary.

Agenda item #12: Other Business

Ted announced that NLC City Congress will be March 11th-13th, and asked any Board members interested in attending to contact him. VLCT pays for Board officers to attend, and may subsidize travel for Board members if possible.

Agenda Item #13: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Weiss,

Membership and Administrative Coordinator

As approved by VLCT Board of Directors March 20, 2025.

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View Meeting here:

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