

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

Joint Executive Committee and Nominating Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

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

Charlie Hancock called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Charlie Hancock declared the agenda approved without objection.

Jessie Baker moved to approve the March 13, 2025, Nominating Committee Minutes. Georgette Wolf Ludwig seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Charlie Hancock stated there was not a quorum of voting members present who were in attendance of the June 5, 2025, Executive Committee meeting, and requested that the minutes be added to a future agenda.

Ted provided a brief update on the status of the association hub plans. He noted that the development consultant has provided proformas for three buildings in our geographic target, and that all are significantly more than VLCT budgeted for. As a result, he is unsure new construction is going to be a viable option – and shared that the most cost-effective option presented to date that meets the programming requirements given to the real estate development consultant is the federal building. He asked that the Executive Committee support asking the VLCT Building Committee to revisit the geographic requirements and programming requirements given to the consultant – so that the Board can make an informed decision on next steps. Jessie Baker asked if we are considering alternative locations. Ted shared VLCT is speaking with several developers to get a cost estimate on building new, and evaluate it to the consultants estimate. Charlie Hancock asked whether VLCT was looking into other sources of funding to help build the new facility. Georgette Wolf Ludwig asked about the plan for VLCT at the end of the current lease. Ted shared that at the end of 2026, VLCT will either work to negotiate a short-term lease in the current space or find a temporary new home until a new permanent space is secured. No action was taken.

Ted shared he has confirmed there are three open seats for this year's board elections, and shared that all three are elected officials and all three are woman. Georgette Wolf Ludwig shared that the Upper Valley is losing two members on the board, and that she felt a clerk/treasurer should replace her when she left. Ted shared that seven qualified nominations were received for the VLCT Board of Directors. Ted also shared that Corinth Selectboard Chair Holly Groschner has expressed interest, and that if the Nominating Committee were interested, he could ask for an application.

After a discussion about geographic diversity, size and characteristics of towns represented on the board, and the different types of positions currently represented on the board, Georgette Wolf Ludwig motioned to recommend the membership elect Tracy Borst, Town Clerk and Treasurer in Thetford; Jacqueline Higgins, Town Manager in Williamstown; and Brian Shupe, Selectboard member in Waitsfield to positions on the VLCT Board of Directors at the annual meeting. Jessie Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the nominations for VLCT's Lifetime Achievement Award and VLCT's

Municipal Service Award.

After a discussion about various nominations on hand, Jessie Baker moved to recommend the VLCT Board of Directors name Bill Fraser as the recipient of the 2025 VLCT Lifetime Service Award and ask the Board to consider either selecting between Linda Martin of Wolcott and/or Farley Brown of Craftsbury to receive the 2025 VLCT Municipal Service Award or to present the award to both candidates in 2025. Georgette Wolf Ludwig seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jessie Baker moved to adjourn both meetings at 4:30 p.m. Georgette Wolf Ludwig seconded the motion. It was unanimously adopted.

Submitted by Ted Brady.

+++++

DRAFT