

**MINUTES OF THE
VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, April 7, 2016**

Members Present: President Cadwell, Vice President Louras, and Members Shepeluk, Beckett, Janssen, Pinsonault, Richard, Safford, Weinberger and Whittaker.

Others Present: VLCT staff members including Karen Horn, Gwynn Zakov, Mike Gilbar and Jessica Hill.

Agenda Item #1: Call to order by the President.

President Cadwell called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Additions and Deletions to the Agenda.

No items were added to the agenda. On motion duly made by Member Monette and seconded by Member Richard, the Board unanimously adopted the existing agenda.

Agenda Item #3: Consent Agenda Items.

Member Safford asked that a discussion of the minutes be moved to Agenda item #10a.

On motion duly made by Member Richard and seconded by Vice President Louras, the Board unanimously accepted the Personnel Report.

Agenda Item #4: Review of Legislative Priorities.

Member Weinberger joined the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Karen Horn and Gwynn Zakov reported that the legislature is trying to finish its work by early May, updated the Board about current activity at the State House and gave a status report on a list of issues of concern to local government. That list is attached to the minutes. Karen and Gwynn responded to queries from the Board.

President Cadwell asked for the Board's input regarding the make-up of the VLCT Policy Committees. He recommended appointing former Board members Eric Osgood and Tammy Legacy as chair and vice chair of the FAIR Committee. Member Safford and Member Pinsonault volunteered to serve on the Quality of Life and Environment Committee. Member Beckett volunteered to serve on the Transportation Committee and Member Monette volunteered to chair the Water Quality Committee. The recommendation is that the following committee chairs and vice chairs continue to serve in 2016: Vice President Louras and Member Whittaker as chair and vice chair of Public Safety; Member Weinberger and Member Janssen as chair and vice chair of Quality of Life and Environment; Member Ramsay and Member Simmons as chair and vice chair of Transportation and Jeff Wennberg of Rutland as vice chair of Water Quality.

Upon motion by Member Safford and seconded by Member Pinsonault, the Board unanimously approved all recommendations and offers of service.

Agenda Item #5: VLCT Policy Review.

Maura Carroll presented information and responded to questions about the updated VLCT policies, specifically the Grants Management, Fraud, Investment, Procurement and Finance Policies. Discussion ensued concerning the Grants Management Policy and the role of the Board regarding specific approvals. Member Janssen noted that the name of the policy should be changed in the Code of Conduct section to reflect the amended policy title. In addition, Member Janssen suggested an amendment to the Procurement Policy in subsection (b) of the section "Purchases Greater than \$25,000". That language should read: *A formal bid process is required for any purchase in excess of \$50,000. If required for federal funding, additional processes shall be instituted for a purchase exceeding \$100,000.* Mike Gilbar responded to questions from the Board about each of the policies.

Following the discussion at the last Board meeting regarding the VLCT Bylaw requirement that the Board elect a Treasurer, the Board agreed that in May it will appoint a Treasurer and review draft language amending the Bylaws to reflect specifically that a Board member may serve in that capacity.

On motion by Member Safford and seconded by Member Pinsonault, the Board unanimously approved all of the policies presented, including the revisions as described above.

Agenda Item #6 Conduct of Annual Meeting: role of VLCT President v. Moderator

President Cadwell stated that it is his preference to allow an experienced town moderator to conduct the business of the Annual Meeting, rather than the Board President, so that the President may focus on the substantive policy issues and respond to other concerns that may arise during the course of the meeting. It was suggested that the Board annually recognize an outstanding moderator and provide that person with the opportunity to conduct the VLCT Annual Meeting.

Agenda Item #7 Finance Update.

Chief Financial Officer Mike Gilbar provided an update of the VLCT financial position. Typically, the Board would review the audit at the April Board meeting. However, due to the reporting requirements of GASB 68 dealing with pension liabilities, VLCT is waiting for the VMERS audit results in order to complete the League's audit. Mike anticipates that the audit may be ready for the May meeting and is hopeful that this delay is a one-time event.

Agenda Item #8: Corporate Partner Opportunity.

Maura Carroll updated the Board about the corporate partnership opportunity with Schooley-Mitchell, the firm that provides audits of telecommunications and merchant services and is working with VLCT to review its telecommunication costs. She discussed the provisions of the

signed service agreement and reported that Paul Nelson met with staff in the VLCT offices on Tuesday, April 5, and is currently reviewing the billing information of the League's telecommunications providers. Mr. Nelson anticipates a 4-8 week review process. Following that, staff will report back to the Board with results, suggested savings and feedback from the process.

Agenda Item #9: Town Fair Update.

Lisa Goodell updated the Board about the Town Fair Survey results and recommendations for scheduling events at Town Fair 2016. The Board agreed to try a new schedule, with the VLCT Board meeting to be held on Wednesday morning, October 5, and the Annual Meeting on Wednesday afternoon. If the VERB Board meeting is to be held on Wednesday it will be coordinated with the VLCT Board meeting. Following that, there will be an exhibitor reception for all in attendance. On Thursday, October 6, the day will begin with a keynote speaker and a full day of training to follow. Also, the VERB and PACIF Annual Meetings will take place on Thursday. Board members suggested considering half-day conference rates.

Agenda Item #10a: Consent Agenda Items to be voted separately.

Member Safford stated that he would like to add the following language to Agenda Item #6 of the minutes of the March 17, 2016 VLCT Board meeting: "In addition, staff will continue to review partnership opportunities and will research policies from other state leagues. Draft policies for business partnerships and sponsorship and advertising protocols will be brought to the Board at a later date." Upon motion duly made by Member Safford and seconded by Member Shepeluk, the minutes of March 17, 2017 were unanimously adopted as amended.

Member Whittaker left the meeting at 2:50.

Agenda Item #10d: Staff Initiatives

Staff brought forward a request to consider allowing employees to use work time to volunteer for local charities or projects. The Board suggested that language be added to the Personnel Policy, providing/encouraging employees to use 4 hours per year, for example, while being mindful of risk assessments and the potential to create workers compensation issues.

Member Janssen and Member Pinsonault provided an update on Member Simmons.

On motion duly made by Member Safford and seconded by Member Monette, the Board unanimously adopted a motion to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Carroll
Executive Director



**Legislative Bills, Events, Reports of Concern to VLCT
Status as of April 7, 2016**

www.vlct.org
<http://legislature.vermont.gov>
Sergeant At Arms 802-828-2228
to contact your legislator, find bills and action

H. 130 Agency of Public Safety	<i>S. Government Operations</i>
H. 249 Councils of Government (d.b.a. Municipal Services)	<i>S. Government Operations</i>
H. 434 Law Enforcement and fire safety training	<i>S. Government Operations</i>
H. 458 Automatic Voter Registration	<i>Senate Floor</i>
H. 517 Water Classifications	<i>Senate Floor</i>
H. 552 Endangered Species and Critical Habitat	<i>S. Natural Resources</i>
H. 571 Restoring suspended licenses	<i>S. Judiciary</i>
H. 610 Wastewater and water supply revolving loan funds	<i>S. Institutions</i>
H. 629 Vital Records	<i>S. Government Operations</i>
H. 640 Cemeteries	<i>S. Government Operations</i>
H. 674 Public Notice of Wastewater Discharges	<i>S. Natural Resources</i>
H. 743 Fair and Impartial Policing	<i>S. Judiciary</i>
H. 747 State Treasurer may intercept funds payable from the state to a municipality or school district make to cover payments on a bond note that would otherwise be in default.	<i>S. Finance</i>
H. 779 Agriculture Exemption for Value Added Business	<i>H. Agriculture</i>

H. 789 Require a forest integrity element in a municipal plan and specific policies to control development in those areas to prevent forest fragmentation and increase habitat connectivity.

S. Natural Resources

H. 851 Conduct of Forestry Operations

S. Natural Resources

H. 853 Statewide Education Tax

S. Education

H. 854 Timber Trespass

S. Judiciary

H. 855 Fire Wardens and Fire Suppression

S. Natural Resources

H. 857 Timber Harvesting

S. Natural Resources

H. 865 Workforce Housing

House Floor

H. 870 Telecommunications

House Floor

H. 872 Fee Bill

S. Finance

H. 875 Appropriations Bill

S. Appropriations

H. 877 Transportation Bill

S. Transportation

H. 878 Capital construction Bill

S. Institutions



S. 94 Appoint Clerks and Treasurers

H. Government Operations

S. 114 Open Meeting

H. Government Operations

S. 155 Privacy Protection and Drones

H. Judiciary

S. 184 Ethics

S. Government Operations

S. 230 Renewable Energy Siting

H Natural Resources & Energy

S. 241 Marijuana Legalization

H. Judiciary

JRH 26 Toxics in Water

H. Fish Wildlife and Water

H R. 11 Amends House Rules to provide for a charter amendment to be placed on the Calendar for notice for two legislative days before being placed in the Orders of the Day, after which it may proceed without a committee report unless the Speaker or member by motion, commits it to a committee.

House Rules.

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 26

Joint resolution relating to the amendment of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act and its preemption provisions

Offered by: Representatives Deen of Westminster, Beyor of Highgate, Bissonette of Winooski, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Corcoran of Bennington, Fields of Bennington, Jewett of Ripton, Krebs of South Hero, Lefebvre of Newark, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Sheldon of Middlebury, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Webb of Shelburne, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Whereas, more than 84,000 chemicals are in use in the United States, and each year more than 1,000 chemicals are added to the list, and

Whereas, more than 90 percent of chemicals in commercial use have not been fully tested for potential impacts on human health or the environment, and

Whereas, on Congress's passage in 1976 of the Toxic Substances Control Act, Pub.L. 94-469 (TSCA), the law grandfathered 62,000 chemicals from regulation, only 200 chemicals have been fully tested since passage, just five chemicals have been banned or restricted, and no chemicals have been banned in 20 years, and

Whereas, biomonitoring studies demonstrate clear links between toxic chemicals and adverse health effects, and

Whereas, the threat of adverse health effects is especially high for certain vulnerable populations such as children or pregnant women, and for these groups, safe exposure levels are much lower, and

Whereas, annually, more than \$2 billion are spent on the medical costs associated with detecting cancer, asthma, and neurobehavioral disorders directly associated with toxic chemicals, and

Whereas, the recent discovery that the chemical perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is contaminating drinking water sources in multiple Vermont locations illustrates the need for legal authority that more effectively regulates toxic chemicals, and

Whereas, the use of PFOA is not regulated and significant health risks to Vermonters exist as a result of pollution from factories closed more than a decade ago, and

Whereas, Congress is considering Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform in two pieces of pending legislation, S.697, The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, and H.R. 2576, The TSCA Modernization Act of 2015, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to pass comprehensive TSCA reform legislation to strengthen and clarify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulation of toxic chemicals, including language that is stronger and more effective than proposed in either S.697 or H.R. 2576, and be it further

Resolved: That the amended TSCA should include a safety standard that identifies and protects vulnerable populations, including potentially exposed workers, children, pregnant women, and those with compromised immune systems, and be it further

Resolved: That before new chemicals are introduced into commerce, TSCA should be amended to include a requirement that industry include sufficient test data, when it submits premanufacture notices, in order that the EPA can determine easily if the chemicals meet the safety standard, and be it further

Resolved: That an amended TSCA provide clear timelines for starting and completing safety assessments on chemicals that are proposed for introduction into commerce or already in use in commerce, and for withdrawing from commerce chemicals found to be unsafe, and be it further

Resolved: That the EPA must receive the necessary financial resources and statutory mandate to initiate a reasonable number of reviews each year on existing chemicals of highest concern, including those already listed on the TSCA Work Plan for Chemical Assessment, and be it further

Resolved: That the states should be preempted from taking action on a specific chemical only if the EPA has taken final action to regulate that chemical and that the scope of preemption should not be broader than the scope of the EPA's action, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.