

**MINUTES OF THE  
VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2015**

**Members Present:** President Cadwell, Vice President Louras and Members Janssen, Legacy, Osgood, Ramsay (via Skype) Richard, Riesberg, Simmons, and Whittaker.

**Members Not Present:** Members Pinsonault and Weinberger.

**Others Present:** State Treasurer Beth Pearce and Tim Leuders-Dumont of the State Treasurer's Office, by invitation, Lydia, an intern with the City of Rutland, members of VLCT staff, including Karen Horn, Jessica Hill, Ken Canning, and Abigail Friedman.

**Agenda Item #1: Call to Order by President**

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

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

No additions or deletions were made to the Agenda.

**Agenda Item #3: Consent Agenda Items**

By motion duly made by Member Legacy and seconded by Member Reisberg, the Board took the following actions on consent agenda items:

Approved the minutes of the June 25, 2015 Meeting  
Accepted the Personnel Report

The vote was a unanimous roll call vote, with President Cadwell, Vice President Louras and Members Janssen, Legacy, Osgood, Ramsay (via Skype) Richard, Riesberg, Simmons, and Whittaker all voting in the affirmative.

**Agenda Item #4: VMERS Investments Presentation by State Treasurer Beth Pearce**

Treasurer Pearce was invited to be present at the Board meeting and spoke about the topic of divestment of fossil fuel investments by the Vermont Pension Investment Committee (VPIC). Treasurer Pearce spoke about the fiduciary obligation of VPIC to the members of the state and local retirement plans. She briefly explained how investment policies are adopted and investments made and provided the Board with a memorandum she had prepared for VPIC, as well as an analysis completed by her staff of the potential impact of divestment on the retirement funds.

**Agenda Item #5: Discussion and vote on policy position regarding VMERS Investments**

Following the presentation by the Treasurer, the Board discussed which entity is the appropriate one to be making investment decisions for the state and local retirement systems. On motion duly made by Member Janssen and seconded by Member Reisberg, the Board adopted a resolution supporting

VPIC as the appropriate entity to make prudent investment decisions, rather than the legislature or any other entity. The vote was a unanimous roll call vote, with President Cadwell, Vice President Louras and Members Janssen, Legacy, Osgood, Ramsay (via Skype) Richard, Riesberg, Simmons, and Whittaker all voting in the affirmative.

#### **Agenda Item #6: Legislative Strategy Update**

Vice President Louras, as Chair of the Advocacy Strategy Focus Group, provided an update on the work of the Group and included the consensus opinion urging the Board of Directors to strongly consider upgrading the vacant advocacy position and the potential to hire interns to report to staff during the legislative session. There was lively discussion about the discussions that took place with the Focus Group, in the FAIR Committee and among staff.

#### **Agenda Item #7: VLCT Municipal Policy Recommendations**

The Board discussed the policy recommendations as presented and determined that further discussion was needed at the September Board meeting. Board members will review the items carefully and the policy recommendations will be sent to member cities and towns in August, in preparation for discussion and action at Town Fair in October.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Discussion of Vermont Local Roads Program Issues**

Member Janssen brought this issue to the Board's attention and explained the problem as a delay in approvals regarding Better Back Roads grants which is resulting in an inability to complete work during the summer months because approvals are made too late. Board members expressed frustration with the process. It was suggested that VLCT survey its members to see what is occurring generally, and invite Secretary Minter or Deputy Secretary Cole to discuss this issue with VLCT.

#### **Agenda Item #9: Appoint VLCT Representative to the Solar Siting Task Force established in H.40 (Act 56)**

On motion duly made by Member Janssen and seconded by Vice President Louras, the Board voted to appoint Karen Horn as the VLCT representative to the Solar Siting Task Force. The vote was a unanimous roll call vote, with President Cadwell, Vice President Louras and Members Janssen, Legacy, Osgood, Ramsay (via Skype) Richard, Riesberg, Simmons, and Whittaker all voting in the affirmative.

#### **Agenda Item #10: Decide on OED Role at Town Fair**

The Board discussed various options for Steve Jeffrey's role at Town Fair and suggested that he be invited to attend the Wednesday evening dinner and the turkey luncheon on Thursday. Staff will contact Mr. Jeffrey.

**Agenda Item #11: Other Business**

Member Janssen informed the Board that Sandy Harris was recently re-elected to the Select Board in Vernon. She also discussed Act 148 and the confusion over whether there is a requirement to adopt ordinances regarding solid waste variable pricing.

Member Richards discussed a request by Colchester and Williston for VLCT to offer support in the form of an amicus brief regarding the Agency of Transportation's reluctance to pay stormwater fees to those two towns, which have adopted stormwater utilities. Karen Horn will meet with state contacts and inform them that if the issue goes to court, VLCT will file an amicus brief.

**Agenda Item #12: Adjourn**

On motion duly made by Member Janssen and seconded by Member Reisberg, the Board voted to adjourn at 2:35 p.m. The vote was a unanimous roll call vote, with President Cadwell, Vice President Louras and Members Janssen, Legacy, Osgood, Ramsay (via Skype) Richard, Riesberg, Simmons, and Whittaker all voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Carroll  
Executive Director

*A digital recording of the meeting, with comments and discussion in open session as well as actions taken, is available upon request.*