

Southern Vermont Communication District Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

March 03, 2021

Table 1 Roll Call

Town Name	Representative Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A	Alternate Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A	2 nd Alternate Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A
Arlington	Cynthia Browning	A	Matt Bykowski	A		
Bennington	Eric Hatch	V	Ron Dubreul	A	Beth Hardesty	A
Dorset	Mike Chase	V	Jim Salsgiver	P	Mike Oltedal	A
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber		Susan Lenox	A		
Londonderry	Jeff Such	V	John Hankin	A	Ellen Seidman	P
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V	Kathleen James	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	V	Karlan Eberhardt	V		
Peru	Alex Sheets	V	Peter Bradford	P		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	A	Jed Ruben	V	Charles Rockwell	A
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A		
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	P	James Salerno	A
Sunderland	Mark Hyde	V	Andrew McKeever	P		
Woodford	Michael Charette	A				

1. Call to order

Tim Scoggins called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

2. Roll Call

Tim Scoggins conducted roll call; a quorum of the Board was present.

Also present: Bill Fisk, Treasurer

3. Conflict of Interest

Tim Scoggins asked if there were any conflicts of interest with anything appearing on the agenda. There were none.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mark Hyde moved to approve February 3, 2021 minutes, seconded by Eric Hatch.

Discussion: The February 3rd meeting need to be corrected to reflect who offered specific motions and who seconded those motions. By unanimous consent the motion failed

Tim Scoggins moved to postpone approval of February 3, 2021 minutes until corrected by Sheila, seconded by Mark Hyde. Motion passed, unanimously.

5. Announcements

None

6. Public Comment

None

7. Election of Officers

The Board accepted nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Mark Hyde moved to nominated Jeff Such for Chair, seconded by Sheila Kearns. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Such moved to nominate Mark Hyde as Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Terry Dorsey moved to nominate Sheila Kearns for Secretary/Clerk. Motion passed unanimously.

Tim Scoggins turned the floor over to Jeff Such to continue the meeting as Chair.

8. Admittance to District

Sheila Kearns moved to admit Winhall CUD to the District, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Motion passed, unanimously.

Tim Scoggins moved to admit John Hankin as 2nd Alternate for Londonderry, seconded by Eric Hatch. Motion passed, unanimously.

9. Feasibility Study Update

Jeff Such updated the Board that Municipal Capital Market has submitted the feasibility study letter to the State and could be fully approved as early as the next Governing Board meeting. Jeff Such will distribute the letter to the Board. Sheila Kearns moved for the Board to endorse the actions of the leadership group that has submitted the Feasibility Study to the State,

awaiting approval. Seconded by Tim Scoggins. Motion passed, unanimously.

10. Legislative Updates

Jeff Such updated the Board more information will be available toward the end of the month. There are three funding opportunities. The first is the remaining money from the CARES Act which has been extended for the remainder of this year. The second is money from the Governor's budget which will be fast tracked. The third is Federal Stimulus funds. Jeff added there should be movement by the next Governing Board meeting. Jeff reminded the Board that the District will need to have requests for capacity building and pre-construction mapped when opportunities arise to obtain funding.

11. Legal Agreements

Jeff Such asked the Board if anyone is available to help out more as the work increases to please reach out. The Board discussed opportunities to allow officers to execute legal agreements. Tim Scoggins moved that the Board authorize the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to enter into legal agreements similar to NDAs that allow leadership to proceed with conversations with entities that can advance goals and purposes as a group with legal review/approval, and the promise to report and bring the agreements to the Board at the next meeting for formal approval. Seconded by Sheila Kearns. Motion passed, unanimously.

12. Frequency of Meetings

Jeff Such suggested the Governing Board meet twice a month. He also suggested changing the meeting date to the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6pm. Sheila Kearns moved to increase the frequency of meetings to twice a month and be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, seconded by Eric Hatch. Motion passed, unanimously.

13. Capacity Building

Jeff Such said the immediate priority will be on capacity building around industry expertise. He recommended Alex Kelley from RISI and Carole Monroe from ValleyNet. Jeff Such added this will be on the agenda for the next meeting and asked the Board to keep this in mind and be ready to review proposals and make decisions in this regard.

14. Website

Jeff Such updated the Board about a proposal to have the website designed, developed, and hosted. Terry Dorsey moved for the Board to make funds available to build and host the website and any other cloud services that may be needed, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Motion passed, unanimously.

15. Administrative Services

Jeff Such talked about administrative services, he asked the Board to consider Reliable Virtual

Assistants (RVA) for minute taking services and consider moving up to \$500 of operation expenses for these services. The motion to engage the services of RVA was made by Alex Sheets and seconded by Eric Hatch. Motion passed, unanimously.

16. MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) – DVFiber

Jeff Such reported to the Board that DVFiber authorized execution of the MOU. Mark Hyde made a motion to accept the MOU with Deerfield Valley, seconded by Eric Hatch. Motion passed, unanimously.

17. Other Business

Jeff Such updated the Board that the attorney reviewed and made edits to the NDA with CCI and it has been mutually executed. Mark Hyde added that there will be a follow up call with Comcast tomorrow, there may be an NDA needed for this. Mark also said they also had a call with Starlink on Monday and an NDA would need to be executed there as well. Sheila Kearns is working on getting documents organized and encouraged the Board to reach out to her if they are looking for information.

18. Adjournment

Eric Hatch moved to adjourn, seconded by Mark Hyde. Motion passed, unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm