

Southern Vermont Communication District Board

Draft Governing Board Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

Table 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	Nick Zaiac	V
Bennington	Eric Hatch	V	Ron Dubreul	A	Beth Hardesty	A
Dorset	Mike Chase	V	Jim Salsgiver	P	Mike Oltedal	A
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	A		
Londonderry	Jeff Such	V	John Hankin	A		
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V	Kathleen James	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	V	Karlan Eberhardt	P		
Peru	Alex Sheets	A	Peter Bradford	A		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	V	Jed Ruben	P	Arlene Bentley	P
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	P
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	A	James Salerno	A
Sunderland	Mark Hyde	V	Andrew McKeever	A		
Winhall	Fred Swacke	A				
Woodford	Michael Charette	A				

Also present: Bill Fiske, Treasurer;

Call to order

Jeff Such called the meeting to order at 6:19pm

Roll Call

Jeff Such confirmed a quorum of the Board was present.

Conflict of Interest

None

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

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None

Announcements

None

Public Comment

None

Review and Approval of Minutes

Jeff Such moved to approve the 04/28/2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Mark Hyde. Motion passed unanimous.

Chair's Report

a) Legislative Update

Jeff Such updated the Board that the Senate has passed their version of H.360. This final amount of the bill was \$150 million - \$100 million for FY21 and \$50 million for FY22. They are still working on the Broadband Board structure that will oversee the distribution of funds. The new Broadband Board will not be organized for a few months, possibly the closer to the new year, at this time the State has granted DPS the interim authority to distribute funds for preconstruction and construction projects. The DPS can grant up to \$20 million before the new board is organized and an additional \$5 million if it is needed – this is across the state. CUDs and smaller independent ISPs in areas where a CUD does not exist are eligible for funding. ISPs withing a CUD region would need to work with the CUD. Jeff answered questions from the Board around funding allocation, and underserved areas.

b) H.315 Grant Application

Jeff Such reported the H.315 RFP was released, and the first round of applications will be closed out on Monday. Jeff is working on finalizing the Southern Vermont CUD application for \$180,000 and will get it submitted, there should be a decision soon. The funding from this grant will be used for capacity building, consultants, and legal fees. Jeff will share with the Board the final application when it is complete.

c) ISP Discussions with Potential Executive Session [1 V.S.A. § 313]

Jeff Such reported there have not been any new discussions. Everyone was waiting to see what would happen with the Bills. Jeff answered questions from the Board around net neutrality, and CCI. The Board will continue discussions around universal coverage and net neutrality.

Other Business

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Mark Hyde asked if there were any formal decisions from Deerfield Valley Fiber at this time. Jeff Such said they need more time. Jeff added that there have been discussions with the Otter Creek CUD and they appear to be aligned with the same goals as Southern VT CUD. For this round each CUD will apply for individual funding. Sheila Kearns added when H.360 comes around they may look at collaboration. Jeff Such said that DVFiber will apply for additional funding to have a study by CTC regarding the benefits of a two-county solution.

Adjournment

Jeff Such moved to adjourn, seconded by Bill Meyer. Motion passed, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.