

# Southern Vermont Communication District Board

## Draft Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2021

Table 1 Roll Call

Town Name	Representative Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A	Alternate Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A
Arlington	Cynthia Browning	A	Matt Bykowski	A		
Bennington	Eric Hatch	V	Ron Dubreuil	P	Beth Hardesty	A
Dorset	Mike Chase	V	Jim Salsgiver	A	Mike Oltedal	A
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	V		
Londonderry	Jeff Such	A	John Hankin	V		
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V	Kathleen James	A		
Peru	Ben Foltz	V	Peter Bradford	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	A	Karlan Eberhardt	V		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	V	Jed Rubin	P	Arlene Bentley	P
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	A
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	A	James Salerno	A
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	V				
Woodford	Michael Charette	A				

Also present: Jonathan Cooper (BCRC), Callie Fishburn (BCRC), and Jake Gesling (BCRC), Al Bashevkin (Treasurer)

### 1. Call to Order

Eric Hatch called the meeting to order.

### 2. Roll Call

Callie Fishburn conducted the roll call; a quorum of the Board was present.

### 3. Conflict of Interest

None

4. Additions to or deletions from the agenda

None

5. Public Comments

None

6. Announcements

Eric Hatch introduced Al Bashevkin and reported he is willing to take on the role as treasurer, but the Board would need to confirm the vote. Eric added Al has plans to move everything to QuickBooks, add functionality to the program, and move the CUD away from paper to be entirely digital.

Al Bashevkin asked the Board to consider additional insurance if needed. Al will contact the insurance agent to confirm coverages.

Al also asked the Board to consider an expense of \$100 to purchase 50 QuickBooks checks. The Board approved the expenditure without objection.

NTIA

Eric Hatch reported the deadline for the NTIA award was November 15<sup>th</sup> however he just heard a few hours ago they are not going to be able to announce winners for the awards until sometime in early 2022. Reconvene about what can be done in the interim. Jonathan Cooper added there is an obligation in the law that NTIA has to help every applicant that puts in an application to fix it. Bridge funding or alternatives.

Reporting

Preconstruction grant money from Vermont – Eric asked Jonathan to send calendar invites to officers to get reports completed...working session, may need to bring Al in to look back at expenditure activity. Sheila requested working and finalized documents be stored in an obvious place in the shared Google drive.

7. Review and approval of draft minutes October 27<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>

Tim Scoggins requested to strike “unofficial” from the title of the minutes from the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Tim Scoggins moved to make this correction, seconded by Terrence Dorsey.

*Motion passed, unanimously.*

Sheila Kearns moved to approve the October 27<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended and November 10<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented, seconded by Bill Meyer. *Motion passed, unanimously.*

8. Confirmation of new treasurer

Tim Scoggins moved to certify Al Bashevkin as treasurer, seconded by Bill Meyer. *Motion passed, unanimously.*

9. VCUDA membership discussion

Eric Hatch reported VCUDA is looking for member contributions. Jonathan Cooper elaborated VCUDA proposed a due structure which is a combination of formulas from miles, premises, and customers - the total due structure for Southern Vermont CUD is \$7,227.00 in which the first payment of 10% is due on December 15<sup>th</sup>, the second payment of 15% is due March 15<sup>th</sup>, then quarterly payments after that.

Jonathan overviewed the VCUDA budget expenses with the Board. The Board discussed the pros and cons of maintaining membership, the mission of VCUDA, and funding for membership. The general consensus of the Board was to move forward as a member of VCUDA.

Eric Hatch moved to take a pole of all those in favor of the VCUDA membership in the amount of \$7227.00, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Informal vote taken after continued discussions – only 1 opposed, Tim Scoggins.

The Board will conduct a formal vote at the December 8<sup>th</sup> standing meeting and will look for more information around funding for the membership.

10. Other business

Ron Dubreuil mentioned Comcast reached out to him and some neighbors regarding LECAP and asked about the program. Eric explained the line extension program is an opportunity for some and expires at the end of the year. Jonathan Cooper said around 40 addresses in his area were assisted through the program. Jonathan will reach out to people who have taken advantage of the program and send details about the experience. The Board continued to talk about the program process and details.

11. Adjournment

Terrence Dorsey moved to adjourn, seconded by Sheila Kearns. *Motion passed, unanimously.*