

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2022

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	Jamie Paustian	A		
Bennington	Eric Hatch	√	Ron Dubreuil	A	Beth Hardesty	A
Dorset	Mike Chase	A	Jim Salsgiver	A	Bob Meszaros	A
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	V		
Londonderry	John Hankin	V				
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V	Kathleen James	A		
Peru	Ben Foltz	A	Peter Bradford	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	V	Karlan Eberhardt	A		
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	P		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	A				
Woodford						

Also present: Jonathan Cooper and Callie Fishburn (BCRC), Al Bashevkin (treasurer)

1. Call to order
The chair called the meeting to order.
2. Roll call
Callie Fishburn called roll. A quorum of the board was present.
3. Conflict of interest
None
4. Additions to or deletions from the agenda [1 V.S.A. § 312]
None
5. Review and approval of draft minutes from August 10, 2022
Motion to approve the minutes by Sheila Kearns, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Passed unanimously.

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

None

8. Update on Construction Grant Application and Next Steps

The CUD's Act 71 Construction Grant application was approved for the full amount of \$9,009,085. The VCBB voted 2-1 to approve the application with Laura Sibilgia voting against approval. The CUD board now needs to vote on Schedule C of the contract which was added at the request of the VCBB to strengthen accountability and transparency on the part of CCI.

Tim Scoggins asked for clarification on Laura Sibilgia's objections to the application. Eric Hatch responded that her concerns were mainly regarding maintenance of the network and CCI's performance history, as well as strong accountability measures. The VCBB has wide discretion when it comes to requiring specific measures and contract clauses related to the Act 71 grant.

Now that the grant funding has been confirmed, CCI has begun the low-level engineering work and capital planning for the next construction phase. As soon as weather permits next year, construction will begin on Phase 2A and 2B.

Eric Hatch reviewed Schedule C with the board, which largely restates and emphasizes information from other parts of the contract. The CUD will be notified by CCI if there is a data breach or outage event. Customers can receive a service credit for any downtime experienced.

Terry Dorsey moved to accept Schedule C as presented, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Passed unanimously.

Next Steps:

The CUD will be running an informational advertisement in the Bennington Banner and Manchester Journal and drafting a press release. There are also plans for an event in October to formally celebrate construction of the fiber network. There is still some work to be done to ensure the "hardest 17" addresses are connected.

Jed Rubin asked about a group of addresses in East and North Rupert. They are not part of the grant funded construction because they are considered served by VTEL and meet the minimum service requirement of 25/3. The CUD will reach out VCBB staff to see if there is some way to demonstrate that the Rupert addresses are not actually served.

Terry Dorsey said that he believes that the VCBB is developing a process to dispute incorrect coverage data, and that this could be a good opportunity for the CUD to support VCBB in this effort.

Caitlin Randall asked about a build timeline and if it was known when CCI was going to be in certain towns. Eric Hatch and Sheila Kearns responded that that information isn't available yet, but they expect there will be some kind of schedule soon.

Eric Hatch reported that the CUD has been able to bring about positive change through its partnership with CCI, specifically regarding CCI's policy on copper phone lines. Because of feedback from the CUD, CCI customers will now be able to keep their copper phone lines if they want or need them.

9. Other business

Terry Dorsey and Michael Corey are having an ongoing conversation with VCBB staff about data reporting and how the VCBB can provide support.