

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

December 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 | V | Ron Dubreuil | A | Beth Hardesty | A |
| Dorset | Mike Chase | A | Jim Salsgiver | A | Bob Meszaros | V |
| Landgrove | Jim Swartzentruber | A | Susan Lenox | A | | |
| Londonderry | John Hankin | A | | | | |
| Manchester | Terrence Dorsey | V | Kathleen James | A | | |
| Peru | Ben Foltz | A | 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 | P | | |
| Sunderland | Andrew McKeever | V | | | | |
| Winhall | Fred Schwacke | A | | | | |
| Woodford | | | | | | |

Also present: Jonathan Cooper and Callie Fishburn (BCRC)

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 November 9, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes by Bill Meyer, seconded by Karlan Eberhardt. Passed unanimously.

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

None

8. 2022 Annual Report Hearing

Eric Hatch opened the hearing to review the 2022 Annual Report at 6:32PM.

The board reviewed the annual report and discussed a small adjustment to the FY23 budget to add a sub line item to the General Operations line for executive director expenses.

Motion to approve the 2022 SoVT CUD Annual Report by Sheila Kearns, seconded by Bill Meyer. Passed unanimously.

The hearing was closed at 6:42.

9. Update on Act 71 Construction Grant

The grant agreement with VCBB is expected next week

10. Other Business

Eric Hatch met with BCRC to discuss the possibility of BCRC assuming the executive director role in 2023. The responsibilities would be split between Jonathan Cooper and Callie Fishburn. This will help streamline communications by having BCRC be a single point of contact for the CUD. This idea is being introduced to the board at the board, with the expectation that there will be a more formal agreement for the board to vote on at the next meeting.

Andrew McKeever asked about the FCC's updated broadband data map and what it means for Southern Vermont. Terence Dorsey recommends that people who are concerned, should go to the FCC's broadband website, review their address in the database, and if they feel the data are inaccurate, they should submit a challenge. The Public Service Department is working with a consultant to review the data and submit a state challenge. TD believes that this issue should be handled by the state because of the complexity and expertise required to analyze and vet the data. Sheila Kearns reported that the process for submitting an individual challenge to the FCC is not very straightforward and this should be kept in mind when directing people to submit individual challenges. TD said that individual challenges are treated differently than state-level challenges, and will likely be treated as consumer complaints.

Quorum issues: Sheila Kearns suggested getting phone numbers for town representatives so that they can be reminded of meetings by phone as well as email. Eric Hatch did a recent clean-up of the Google email list of board members, but Callie and Jonathan will take a look at the list and possibly reach out to representatives individually about attending meetings.

The next regular meeting on December 28th will be cancelled. The board will reconvene in January, and will begin offering an in-person meeting location again.

Motion to adjourn by Terence Dorsey, seconded by Sheila Kearns. Passed unanimously.