

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2024

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	Jamie Paustian	A	Nick Zaiac	A
Bennington	Eric Hatch	V	Ron Dubreuil	A	Beth Hardesty	A
Dorset	Jim Salsgiver	A				
Landgrove	Susan Lenox	A				
Londonderry	John Hankin	V				
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V				
Peru	Jon Mowry	V	Ben Foltz	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	A	Karlan Eberhardt	A		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	V	Jed Rubin	P		
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Logan Weurslin	P		
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	A		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V	Todd Lawrence	A		
Winhall	Lissa Stark	A				
Woodford	Arlene Bentley	V				

Also present: Callie Fishburn (BCRC), Rob Gaiotti (Dorset Town Manager)

1. Call to order  
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
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]  
Bill Meyer asked for an update on CCI's public relations efforts.
5. Review and Approval of Minutes from August 28, 2024 meeting

*Motion to approve the minutes with the addition of the meeting attendance information by Tim Scoggins, seconded by Sheila Kearns. Passed unanimously.*

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

None

8. Chair Report

- SoVT CUD's Act 71 amendment application for operating funds has been approved by the VCBB. The CUD was awarded \$220,000 for 2025 and 2026.
- Seward & Associates is now providing bookkeeping services to the CUD on a monthly basis. Terry is still working to engage a treasurer.
- CCI is still looking for success stories they can highlight. Terry has reached out to several people but hasn't been able to find anyone. Bill has had some conversations with Rupert residents and identified a neighbor who is very happy with their service and may be willing to share their story.

9. Review and Approve Draft 2024 Annual Report for Distribution

Callie shared an initial draft of the 2024 annual report. Once approved by the board, it will be circulated to member municipalities and a public hearing will be held in November. A final version of the report needs to be approved by December. The proposed 2025 budget includes conservative estimates for legal and audit services. The 2024 financial statement may be adjusted to reflect updated financial information and the CUD's ownership of assets. Tim suggested that the narrative place greater emphasis on the sustainability plan and agreement with CCI. Some adjusted language will be prepared and introduced at the public hearing.

*Motion to approve the draft 2024 report for distribution as presented by Bill Meyer, seconded by Tim Scoggins.*

Discussion: Tim stressed the importance of board members going before their town select boards to share the draft report and solicit comments.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

10. Committee Updates

Finance/Audit: A draft audit RFP is in development and will be presented to the board at a future meeting.

Governance: A proposed bylaw amendment will be presented at a future meeting.

11. Reschedule November and December meetings

The November meeting will take place on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The December meeting will be rescheduled to December 18<sup>th</sup> and may be cancelled if there is no business.

12. Other Business

Tim suggested the CUD put out a press release about the sustainability plan in coordination with Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs.

*Motion to adjourn by Bill Meyer, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.*