



Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019

Board of Directors:

	Vacant, Barton	X	Bill Humphrey, Lyndonville
X	Jonathan Elwell, Enosburg	X	Craig Myotte, Morrisville
X	Mike Sullivan, Hardwick	X	Stephen Fitzhugh, Northfield
P	Pamela Moore, Jacksonville	X	John Morley, Orleans
X	Meredith Birkett, Johnson	P	Reginald Beliveau, Swanton
	Thomas Petraska, Ludlow		

X indicates attendance in person, P indicates attendance by phone.

Alternates present:

Penny Jones, Morrisville	Lynn Paradis, Swanton (Phone)

Others present:

Ken Nolan, VPPSA	Amy Parah, VPPSA	

Numbers in bold type correspond with agenda item numbers:

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at the office of the Authority, located at 5195 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Ctr., Vermont.
2. Vice-Chairman Myotte asked if there were requests for changes and/or modifications to the current agenda. The General Manager asked to add a Legislative update if time allows. Otherwise no changes were requested.
3. Vice-Chairman Myotte asked if there were public comments and/or individuals who would like to address the Board. There was no public in attendance.
- 4/5. During the Board of Directors Meeting on December 11, 2019, the Board requested that the VPPSA staff further explore the Strategic Plan Initiatives, the new positions those initiatives would entail, the cost related to each and how these initiatives would be beneficial to VPPSA and each of the individual members. The two initiatives include the addition of a GIS mapping function (with corresponding personnel) and a Field Services Manager to the VPPSA operations. The General Manager went through a presentation that provided the Board with detailed information on the



two new positions that as proposed, the responsibilities of those individuals, a description of additional staff reorganizations as a result of these efforts, the budget impacts and the benefits to both VPPSA and the VPPSA members. Job descriptions for each position were also provided.

The General Manager explained that the benefits are operational, analytical and ancillary and include:

- VPPSA's ability to address member staffing needs
- Better Management of Capital projects
- More capability to maintain accurate system maps
- Ability to centralize interconnection study efforts
- Position's VPPSA to react more quickly to change conditions
- Sets framework for increased analytical capability
- Begins building centralized data integrations
- Provides visual analysis capabilities
- Provides better succession planning capabilities
- Strengthens VPPSA's ability to address technology questions/policies
- Strengthens municipal positions regarding regulatory/legislative "consolidation" proposals

The General Manager indicated that while both positions will meet immediate organizational and member needs (mapping, management services, etc.) the addition of these positions and corresponding services will position both VPPSA and the VPPSA members to meet future changes in the landscape of regulation, technology and customer expectations. It was further noted, that while there is an obvious cost related to these changes, the majority of members continue to see a decrease in budget impacts (when compared to the 2019 budget).

The Board discussed the addition of the two proposed positions, the benefits they felt that would be realized and the costs related to the organization.

Director Sullivan expressed his interest in the GIS mapping position and stated Hardwick does not have a need for the Field Manager position but realizes other members may.

Director Morley displayed his interest in both positions for Orleans. He feels that the Field Manager position cost will go down based on the need to contract to Barton, Ashland and other non-members.

Director Humphrey also feels that Barton and Ashland will utilize the Field Manager position a majority of the time for at least the first year which will reduce the cost for the members.

Director Humphrey made a motion to approve the two proposed positions as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Fitzhugh. The Motion passed with Director Beliveau voting no and Directors Elwell and Moore not present for the vote. Director Beliveau elaborated on his vote by stating that he was supportive of adding the manager position and felt that was critical to VPPSA's future. However, he didn't see the immediate need for the GIS addition. Since the Motion included both he was opposed.

6. Other Business: The General Manager mentioned Melissa Bailey was testifying at the Legislature today and there were several Bills moving immediately that would require VPPSA and Member attention:
 1. All-Fuels Efficiency Utility that Senator Bray is proposing.
 2. Changed to the RES program put forth by Senator Pearson.
 3. Alternative regulation allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services proposed by Representative Patt.
 4. An EV charges and regulation discussion occurring in the Transportation committees.

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VPPSA is taking strong positions on these Bills and anticipates that Members may need to reach out to their legislators at some point in the process.

The General Manager also wanted to let the members know that VPPSA's first newsletter will be going out to the Legislators shortly.

Chairman Beliveau wanted to add that due to Director Myotte retiring soon the Board will need to consider nominating a new board member for NEPPA.

Chairman Beliveau also asked for more participation at the Committee meetings, or that the Board consider moving to monthly Board Meetings.

Director Humphrey asked for talking points to speak to Legislators. The General Manager will have Julia send talking points to all members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Parah

Amy Parah, Assistant Secretary