



Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

Board of Directors:

	Vacant, Barton		Jonathan Elwell, Lyndonville
	Vacant, Enosburg	P	Penny Jones, Morrisville
P	Mike Sullivan, Hardwick	P	Stephen Fitzhugh, Northfield
	Vacant, Jacksonville		John Morley, Orleans
	Vacant, Johnson	P	Reginald Beliveau, Swanton
P	Thomas Petraska, Ludlow		

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

Alternates present:

Abbey Miller, Enosburg	Lynn Paradis, Swanton
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Others present:

Ken Nolan, VPPSA (X)	Crystal Currier, VPPSA (X)	Amy Parah, VPPSA (P)
Sarah Braese, VPPSA (P)	Alex Nicholson, VPPSA (P)	Eli Emerson, Primmer (P)
Steve Farman, VPPSA (P)	Amanda Simard, VPPSA (P)	James Gibbons, BED (P)

Numbers in bold type correspond with agenda item numbers:

- 1.** Chairman Beliveau called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Beliveau asked if there were requests for changes and/or modifications to the current agenda. The General Manager indicated that a discussion related to Barton is requested if time allows. No other changes were requested.

- 2.** Chairman Beliveau asked if there were public comments and/or individuals who would like to address the Board. There were no public comments.

- 3.** The General Manager informed the Board that he received a legal opinion from Bill Ellis regarding the low-income rate docket; specifically, the opinion indicated that the PUC *does* have authority to order individual utilities to implement a low-income rate program but it *does not* have the authority to implement a state-wide program. It was also noted that if VPPSA intends to file a motion to reconsider, that filing would need to be made by Tuesday, May 24th.

APPROVED

The General Manager noted that he recently had a discussion with the Public Service Department, as they are also considering their response to the docket that is due next Friday. The PSD requested that VPPSA follow-up with them subsequent to this Special meeting to discuss VPPSA's position.

There was a brief discussion regarding a utility specific low-income rate program vs a state-wide program. James Gibbons provided a brief explanation of BED's position and the background of how BED came to their position.

Given the Board's input, VPPSA staff indicated that they would file a motion to reconsider challenging the PUC's authority to implement a statewide low income rate program on Tuesday and then follow-up with filing the data requested by the PUC and comments on Friday. The motion to reconsider would focus on the PUC process and the fact that the PUC does not have authority to implement a state-wide low-income program.

The comments filed on Friday will include:

- The PUC should consider this as a state-wide social program funded by taxpayers rather than a utility program
 - As municipal non-profit utilities, it will be emphasized that providing lower rates to a particular set of customers would take away from other utility customers and it is difficult to see how this process provides value
 - Municipal rates in relation to existing approved low income rates will be highlighted along with the fact that most municipal utility standard rates are already less than the approved discounted rates for other utilities
 - The complexity of identifying the actual number of low income customers will be described supporting the need for greater analysis
 - VPPSA will request that the deadline be extended so that individual utilities have an opportunity to weigh in if they choose
- 4.** The General Manager provided a brief update on the potential sale of the Barton utility. He reminded the Board that the Barton village residents voted down the article to sell. Given this decision, the General Manager informed the Board that the Barton utility is going to need support and management is going to be important. There was a brief discussion how VPPSA should move forward and the best approach to providing assistance.

5. Other Business

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Currier, Secretary