

Chittenden County Communications Union District (CCCUD) Board Meeting

Governing Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 3:00pm

Municipal representatives participating: Mike Vance, Chair, representing Williston, David Solomon, representing Shelburne, Angelike Contis, alt. representing Jericho, Marta Pauer Tursi, representing Essex Junction, Hubie Norton, representing Essex Town, and Brad Holden, representing Underhill

Absent: Julia Andrews, Vice Chair, representing Westford and Tim Barritt, representing South Burlington

Others present: Ann Janda, CCRPC Senior Energy Project Manager and CCCUD Clerk, Jason Gay (MBI), Lee Willette (MBI), and Kyle Thweatt, Williston resident

1. **Call to order** Mike Vance called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.
2. **Public comment period on items NOT on the agenda** | There was no public comment.
3. **Consider approving minutes from December 6, 2023**

Hubie Norton moved to approve, seconded by Marta Pauer Tursi. Motion passed.

4. **Mission Broadband Updates**

Jason Gay said that Mike Reed was an MBI contractor. MBI isn't using Mike's services at this time. Going forward, CCCUD's main contacts will be Lee Willette and Jason Gay, who is now VP and General Manager of Mission Broadband. Mike Dougherty is moving into a consultant role and will still be involved with CCCUD.

Lee Willette said that the CCCUD received two responses to its RFP for an internet service provider. One from Comcast and the other from Consolidated Communications (CCI).

5. **Executive Session to discuss RFP Responses at next steps**

David Solomon motioned to enter Executive Session as per 30 V.S.A. § 3084 § 3084 confidential business information shall be exempt from public inspection and copying pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(9). (Added 2021, No. 71, § 11, eff. June 8, 2021.) seconded by Marta Pauer Tursi. Motion passed.

Entered Executive Session 3:11

Exited Executive Session 4:13

Action: MBI will ask further questions and continue to negotiate with respondents. The CCCUD may need to push back the decision date.

6. **Discuss VCUDA membership**

Mike Vance's opinion is that VCUDA membership costs \$10,000 and its main focus is the Federal BEAD grant program and on CUDs that are building their own networks. He is not sure this supports the CCCUD's work. Brad Holden said that if the CCCUD is not benefiting from membership, he is not sure why we are members. Hubie Norton said that since the CCCUD is

unique and doesn't want to participate in BEAD, he is not sure how VCUDA membership makes sense. Mike Vance said that being fiscally responsible, he is not sure we should pay \$10,000 for no clear benefit, but not sure about the cons of leaving. Brad Holden suggested we discuss the issue with attorney Andy Montroll, since he has been involved with most of the CUDs and knows the history.

Marta Pauer Tursi motioned to authorize the Chair and Clerk to pursue an hour or two of consulting with Andy Montroll regarding the pros and cons of leaving VCUDA to assist the Board with a decision, seconded by Brad Holden. Motion passed.

7. Set date of next meeting

The next meeting will be January 24. The Board may meet weekly until an internet provider is chosen.

Given the time, the other agenda items were tabled until the next meeting.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36.

Respectfully submitted, *Ann Janda, Clerk*