

Minutes ∞ VFDA Executive Board Meeting ∞ December 6, 2023

Meeting held at the VFDA Office in Berlin, VT

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Manny Fletcher, Judy Taranovich, Scott Moore, Matt Cota, Stephanie Austin, Rob Korrow, Peter Bourne, Kinson Craft, Casey Cota, Beth Jackman, Cameron Chase, Greg Nido, Patrick Sage, Dan Jarvis, Chris Keyser, Mallory Corse

Absent: Bob Young, Kevin McIntyre

VFDA President Manny Fletcher called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Fletcher asked the Executive Board to review the anti-trust statement. Matt Cota asked those present to review the minutes from the Executive Board meeting held on July 11, 2023. Greg Nido made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Beth Jackman, approved unanimously.

Austin gave a review of the VFDA's Administrative and Financial status and where we expect VFDA to close out 2023. Also discussed was the status of the Split the Ticket Fund and revenue share with HCCV. Austin also noted the expected income from the directory and electronic newsletter sponsorships as well as NORA funds for 2023 and 2024. The Training Center continues to bring in revenue. Due to declining NORA funds, VFDA will not run a rebate program for 2024. VFDA will continue to reserve NORA funds for R&D and Energy Efficiency in order to offer a program in the future. Chris Keyser made a motion to approve the budget as outlined in the board packet. Seconded by Rob Korrow, approved unanimously.

Matt Cota gave the board an update on VFDA membership and the recent outreach for dealers to affirm their gallons sold in Vermont to ensure their 2024 dues are invoiced correctly. VFDA has not increased dues in 25 years.

Matt Cota reviewed legislative and regulatory issues facing VFDA members and discussed the legal expenses we are likely to see for 2024 in response to Act 18. Austin reported VFDA has spent roughly \$24k in legal expenses already to date. The board discussed adding a contribution request when VFDA sends out dues in January to support the legal fund. Peter Bourne made a motion to approve adding a contribution request for 2024 to support the legal fund in response to the Clean Heat Standard. Judy Taranovich seconded, approved unanimously.

M. Cota asked the board for input on how to cross-train Vermont certified oil, propane and natural gas installers so they can install heat pumps. It is recommended that VFDA ask for legislation that would allow technicians to obtain a specialty electrical/plumbing license through a new program. Judy Taranovich made a motion to approve this request, seconded by Dan Jarvis, approved unanimously.

The board then met in executive session. The board decided in executive session to recognize the efforts of VFDA staff in 2023 with a bonus payment of \$8400 to Stephanie Austin and \$2000 to Meadow Hill Consulting. VFDA President also asked for a copy of Stephanie's current contract to review.

Beth Jackman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:21pm, seconded by Peter Bourne approved unanimously.