



**MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2017
DEANE C. DAVIS BUILDING
1 NATIONAL LIFE DRIVE, MONTPELIER**

**CALVIN COOLIDGE CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR
9:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; Emma Marvin; and John Davis

Members Present by Skype: Michael Keane

Members Absent: Jean O'Sullivan

Staff Present: Fred Kenney, Executive Director; Abbie Sherman, Grants Program Manager; Casey Mock, Director of Strategic & Policy Initiatives, ACCD; and Brett Long, Executive Director, Business Support & International Trade, ACCD

Others Present: Green Mountain Economic Development Corp: Robert Haynes; LED Dynamics: Bill McGrath, CEO; and Spencer Newman, CFO.

9:35 a.m. Roll Call and Agenda Review

Chair Stephan Morse called the meeting to order. Chair Stephan Morse requested a roll call. Members present are noted above.

Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to any additions or deletions to the agenda, hearing none, moved to the next Agenda item.

9:35 a.m. Minutes – October 18, 2017

Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to any corrections or changes to the draft meeting minutes for October 18, 2017. Hearing none, requested a motion.

- ❖ At **9:36 a.m.** Betsy Gentile moved to accept the October 18, 2017, meeting minutes as presented. Michael Keane seconded the motion. Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to further discussion, hearing none requested a roll call for the vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. 8-0-0.
 - ♦ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; and Emma Marvin
 - ♦ Nay: None
 - ♦ Abstain: None

- ❖ At 9:38 a.m. Michael Keane moved to adopt the 2018 meeting schedule as presented, with instructions for staff to consider alternate meeting locations around the state for February, November, and December. Betsy Gentile seconded the motion. Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to further discussion, hearing none requested a roll call for the vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. 8-0-0.
 - ◆ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; and Emma Marvin
 - ◆ Nay: None
 - ◆ Abstain: None

9:39 a.m. Public Comment

Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to any members of the public present to provide public comment or announcements, hearing none, moved to the next Agenda item.

9:40 a.m. Vermont Employment Growth Incentive (VEGI):

LED Dynamics, Randolph (Initial)
GS Blodgett, Essex (Final)
Logic Supply, So. Burl. (Final)
Soya Canfralia, Newport (Deferral to 2018)

- ❖ At 9:41 a.m. Emma Marvin moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss VEGI applications, citing 1 VSA, §313(a)(6). Patricia Horn seconded the motion. Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to further discussion, hearing none requested a roll call for the vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. 8-0-0.
 - ◆ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; and Emma Marvin
 - ◆ Nay: None
 - ◆ Abstain: None

John Davis arrived at 9:42 a.m.

- ❖ At 10:26 a.m. the Council exited from the Executive Session.
- ❖ At 10:30 a.m. Patricia Horn moved that regarding the initial application from LED Dynamics, Inc./Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation, for a project in Randolph that the Council find:
 - The new revenue the proposed project generates to the State exceeds the costs of the activity to the state by \$117,755 (with Green VEGI);
 - The company is not a party to any State action, the host municipality welcomes the new business, and the proposed economic activity conforms to applicable town and regional plans;

- The applicant does not operate in a limited, local market, and the incentive would not give the business an unfair competitive advantage over other Vermont businesses in the same or similar line of business;
- As certified in their application and during testimony before the Council, company officers have provided compelling information and arguments that but for this incentive the proposed economic activity would not occur in Vermont, or would occur in a significantly different and less desirable manner; and
- The application has been certified as eligible for the environmental technology VEGI enhancement.

And therefore, the Council approve an Initial Application, giving initial authorization of “Green” VEGI incentives of up to \$323,627, with an estimated incentive of \$298,299 based on application data, for activity to commence January 1, 2018, subject to submittal and consideration of a Final VEGI Application before the end of calendar year 2018. Michael Keane seconded the motion. Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to further discussion, hearing none requested a roll call for the vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. 9-0-0.

- ♦ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; Emma Marvin; and John Davis
- ♦ Nay: None
- ♦ Abstain: None

- ❖ At **10:29 a.m.** Michael Keane moved to utilize the authority given by 32 VSA §3334 to enhance the incentive for LED Dynamics, located in a qualified LMA, using 100% of the available net revenue benefit, with a maximum incentive of up to \$459,437 with an estimated incentive of \$423,484, thereby reducing the estimated net revenue benefit to \$0. Rachel Smith seconded the motion. Stephan Morse inquired as to further discussion, hearing none requested a roll call for the vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. 9-0-0.

- ♦ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; Emma Marvin; and John Davis
- ♦ Nay: None
- ♦ Abstain: None

- ❖ At **10:30 a.m.** the Council took a brief break, reconvening at **10:41 a.m.**

- ❖ At **10:43 a.m.** Emma Marvin made a motion that the Council approve the Final Application from G.S. Blodgett Corporation for a project in Essex, giving final authorization of VEGI incentives of up to \$643,469, with an estimated incentive of \$536,224, and an estimated net return to the State of \$875,060, for activity commencing in 2017 as approved by the Council in June 2017, when the Council determined that the applicant met the But For and other Approved Criteria. Betsy Gentile seconded the motion. Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to further discussion, hearing none requested a roll call for the vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. 9-0-0.

- ♦ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; Emma Marvin; and John Davis
 - ♦ Nay: None
 - ♦ Abstain: None
- ❖ At 10:45 a.m. John Davis made a motion that the Council approve the Final Application from Logic Supply, Inc./Greenfield, LLC for a project in South Burlington, giving final authorization of VEGI incentives of up to \$757,684, with an estimated incentive of \$698,308, and an estimated net return to the State of \$365,913, for activity commencing in 2017 as approved by the Council in August 2017, when the Council determined that the applicant met the But For and other Approved Criteria. Patricia Horn seconded the motion. Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to further discussion, hearing none requested a roll call for the vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. 9-0-0.
- ♦ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; Emma Marvin; and John Davis
 - ♦ Nay: None
 - ♦ Abstain: None
- ❖ At 10:48 a.m. Patricia Horn made a motion that the Council approve the request from Soya Canfralia, to delay the Activity Commencement Date of their project in Newport to January 1, 2018, with consideration of a Final Application required in 2018. Thad Richardson seconded the motion. Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to further discussion, hearing none requested a roll call for the vote. All voted in favor and the motion passed. 9-0-0.
- ♦ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; Emma Marvin; and John Davis
 - ♦ Nay: None
 - ♦ Abstain: None

Under other business, Chair Stephan Morse suggested that the Council leave open the option of voting on approval of the Bennington TIF District Application at their next meeting on November 17, 2017, if all required information is available in time to be considered at that meeting and the Board can complete deliberations at the meeting.

Fred Kenney advised the Council that at the Agency's recent quarterly meeting an award was created in his honor, Fred being the first recipient. The Fred Kenney Achievement Award, recognizes "an individual's dedication, perseverance and success advancing the mission of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development." Chair Stephan Morse, on behalf of the Council, also expressed his appreciation for Fred's efforts and contributions to the growth of economic development.

Chair Stephan Morse inquired as to any other business, there being none requested a motion to adjourn.

- ❖ At 10.56 a.m. Betsy Gentile moved to adjourn the meeting. Emma Marvin seconded the motion. Chair Stephan Morse requested a roll call for the vote, all voted in favor and the motion passed. 9-0-0.
 - ◆ Aye: Chair Stephan Morse; Betsy Gentile; Michael Keane; Patricia Horn; Mark Nicholson; Rachel Smith; Thad Richardson; Emma Marvin; and John Davis
 - ◆ Nay: None
 - ◆ Abstain: None

Minutes taken by Abbie Sherman: October 26, 2017

Revised by Fred Kenney: October 26, 2017

Approved by the Council: November 17, 2017