

VERMONT TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING JANUARY 27, 2021

Board Members Present:

David Coen, term expires 2/28/21
Richard Bailey, term expires 2/28/21
Wendy Harrison, term expires 2/28/22
Pam Loranger, term expires 2/28/22
Philip Zalinger, term expires 2/28/22

Board Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

John Zicconi, Board Executive Secretary
Ron Shems, Board Attorney

Call to Order:

Chair David Coen called the January 27, 2021 meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., which was held remotely via Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. NEW BUSINESS

1.1 Review/Approve Minutes of the December 10, 2020 Board meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Loranger seconded by Ms. Harrison, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020, Board meeting as submitted.

1.2 TB-512 Houghton Naming Petition

Ms. Loranger, who acted as hearing officer at the December public hearing related to the petition, summarized the hearing and advised the Board to deny the petition. Ms. Loranger said at the hearing people spoke both for and against naming the terminal Building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport after Mr. Houghton, and everyone hailed him as a fellow well met. However, those testifying in opposition – which included the Rutland City Mayor, the Executive Director of the local chamber of commerce and economic development agency, and members of the Rutland legislative delegation – did not believe his ties to the Rutland community were sufficient to warrant naming the terminal building in his honor, a stance with which Ms. Loranger agreed. As a result, she presented a draft decision to the Board denying the request and spelling out the various reasons she believed Mr. Houghton fell short. She encouraged the Board to adopt the draft. The Board also reviewed 11 letters the Board received, the majority of which also asked the Board to deny the petition.

On a motion by Ms. Loranger, seconded by Ms. Harrison and approved unanimously the Board voted to deny the petition in TB-512 to name the terminal building at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport “The Walter E. Houghton Memorial Terminal.”

1.3 TB-467 Doucette Small Claim Remand -- Deliberation

At 10:25 a.m. the Board on a motion by Ms. Loranger, seconded by Mr. Harrison and approved unanimously entered into deliberative session, pursuant to Title 1 § 313, to discuss TB-467 Small Claim of Michelle Doucette, TB-514 Small Claim of Bernard White, and TB-515 Strassberger Airstrip.

Mr. Zicconi and Mr. Shems were invited to join the deliberative session.

1.4 Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Zicconi informed that the Board that he had a meeting scheduled later in the day with the governor's point person regarding boards and commission to discuss the Board's two vacancies as well as the hopeful reappointment of both Mr. Bailey and Mr. Coen whose terms end at the end of February.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.1 TB-514 White Small Claim -- Deliberation

2.2 TB -515 Strassberger Airstrip – Deliberation

At 10:25 a.m. the Board on a motion by Ms. Loranger, seconded by Mr. Harrison and approved unanimously entered into deliberative session, pursuant to Title 1 § 313, to discuss TB-467 Small Claim of Michelle Doucette, TB-514 Small Claim of Bernard White, and TB-515 Strassberger Airstrip.

Mr. Zicconi and Mr. Shems were invited to join the deliberative session.

The Board exited deliberative session at 11:33 a.m.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Round Table

No one had any issues to discuss.

4. ADJOURN

On a motion by Ms. Loranger seconded by Mr. Zalinger, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zicconi
Executive Secretary

Next Board Meeting: March 4, 2021