

# VERMONT TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING AUGUST 2, 2024

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## **Board Members Present:**

David Coen, term expires 2/28/24  
Pam Loranger, term expires 2/28/25  
Philip Zalinger, term expires 2/28/25  
Mark Nicholson, term expires 2/28/25  
Wendy Harrison, term expires 2/28/25  
Marilyn Miller, term expires 2/28/26  
Tim Pudvar, term expires 2/28/27

## **Board Members Absent:**

None

## **Others Present:**

John Zicconi, Board Executive Secretary  
Ron Shems, Board Attorney  
Rachel Dimitruk  
David Baker, Chair Vermont New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board

## **Call to Order:**

Chair Pam Loranger called the August 2, 2024 meeting to order at 10 a.m., which was held in the first floor conference room at Barre City Place.

## **1. NEW BUSINESS**

### ***1.1 Personnel Issue – Executive Secretary Job Search***

**At 10:01 p.m. the Board on a motion by Mr. Coen, seconded by Mr. Nicholson and approved unanimously entered into executive session, pursuant to Title 1 § 313, to discuss a personnel issue and conduct a job candidate interview.**

**Mr. Zicconi, Ms. Dimitruk, Mr. Baker and Mr. Shems were invited to join the executive session.**

**The Board exited executive session at 11:10 p.m. Following the executive session the Board on a motion by Mr. Pudvar and seconded by Mr. Zalinger and approved unanimously instructed Mr. Zicconi to offer Rachel Dimitruk the job of executive secretary.**

### ***1.2 Approve Minutes of the June 6, 2024 Meeting***

**On a motion by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Coen and approved unanimously, the Board approved the minutes of the June 6, 2024 meeting as presented.**

### **1.3 Shems Contract Extension**

Mr. Shems contract as Board Attorney expires on September 30 unless the Board agrees to exercise the party's joint option to extent it another year. Mr. Shems has agreed to the extension.

**On a motion by Mr. Coen, seconded by Ms. Miller and approved unanimously, the Board voted to extend its contract with Terrance, Gillies and Shems until September 30, 2025.**

### **1.4 New Executive Secretary Job Search – Candidate Interview**

See item 1.1 above.

### **1.5 TB 515 Strassberger Airfield – Neighbor Complaint**

Mr. Zicconi told the Board that Strassberger airfield neighbor Kim Choquette filed a complaint with the Board that an airplane that did not belong to Mr. Strassberger may have taken off from the Strassberger airfield and flew low over her property in violation of the airfield's permit. She sked the Board to hold a future hearing that would result in voiding the airfield's permit. She supplied the Board a video of the aircraft flying over her property. Mr. Strassberger in an email to Mr. Zicconi said he was unaware that anyone other than himself had recently used the airfield. He surmised that a pilot who noticed the airfield from the sky may have flown low in the area so that the pilot could get a closer look at his facility from the sky. The Board, after a short discussion, agreed that there was no evidence to show that this aircraft took off or landed at the Strassberger airstrip and declined to hold a future hearing in the matter.

### **1.6 TB-527 Cianbro v VTrans – Appoint a Hearing officer**

**On a motion by Ms. Harrison, seconded by Ms. Miller and approved unanimously, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Zalinger as hearing officer in TB-527 Cianbro v VTrans and to have the authority to make decisions regarding all prehearing matters.**

### **1.7 Executive Secretary's Report**

Mr. Zicconi informed the Board that the Legislature appointed him to serve on a study committee that would discuss and possibly draft a plan that would outline a process for naming public buildings that were owned and controlled by the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services.

## **2. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the Board.

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Coen told the Board that his term technically ended back on February 28, 2024, and that even though Vermont statute allows him to continue to serve on the Board until the Governor appoints a replacement that this meeting would be his last unless the Board requires his presence to have a quorum.

**4. ADJOURN**

**On a motion by Mr. Nicholson seconded by Ms. Miller, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:49 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

John Zicconi, Executive Secretary

**Next Board Meeting: October 9, 2024**