

## Minutes ∞ VFDA Executive Board Meeting ∞ December 13, 2024

Meeting held at the VFDA Office in Berlin, VT

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Manny Fletcher, Judy Taranovich, Scott Moore, Matt Cota, Stephanie Austin, Rob Korrow, Kinson Craft, Casey Cota, Beth Jackman, Cameron Chase, Greg Nido, Dan Jarvis, Chris Keyser, Mallory Corse, Mark Limoges, Kevin McIntyre, Jim Kurrle

**Absent:** None

VFDA President Manny Fletcher called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Fletcher asked the Executive Board to review the anti-trust statement. Fletcher then asked those present to review the minutes from the Executive Board meeting held on May 29, 2024. Judy Taranovich made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rob Korrow, and approved unanimously.

Austin provided a review of VFDA's financial statements. Through November 30, 2024, the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association (VFDA) has total current assets of \$1,057,947 and a net ordinary income of \$99,686. Austin noted the expected income from the directory and electronic newsletter sponsorships as well as NORA funds for 2025. Due to declining NORA funds, Austin recommended waiting at least a year before re-starting a rebate program. Casey Cota suggested offering a shortened program, possibly for the summer of 2025, because of the new AST rules and yellow tags. Austin gave the board an update on VFDA membership and the recent outreach for dealers to affirm their gallons sold in Vermont to ensure their 2025 dues are invoiced correctly. VFDA has not increased dues in 25 years but may consider doing so in 2026. Austin reviewed VFDA's education program and the changes from CETP to PEP. VFDA has been working with Vermont State officials on the changes to the Vermont Fire Code. At this time, VFDA will not be able to offer propane certification training until the state accepts this new training module. Austin said she will continue to work with the state, PGANE, and PERC to resolve this. VFDA has also submitted a Type S plumbing renewal class for approval, and we should have a response by the January Plumbing Board meeting. The Board agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Judy Taranovich made a motion to approve the budget as outlined in the board packet. Seconded by Kevin McIntyre, approved unanimously.

Matt Cota reviewed legislative and regulatory issues facing VFDA members and discussed what we are likely to see for 2025 in response to the Clean Heat Standard. M. Cota reported that VFDA has spent roughly \$40k in legal expenses to date. The board discussed adding a contribution request to support the legal fund if needed in 2025. VFDA and the Board will discuss options at a later date once the legislative session starts.

Matt Cota discussed the open board seats and terms coming up in 2025 and asked for suggested nominations to be reviewed for the February 26 meeting. The discussion then moved to the Executive Officers' terms being up for renewal. Fletcher, Taranovich, Keyser, and Moore all volunteered to remain in their current roles as Executive Officers for 2025-2026. Casey Cota made a motion to approve the re-elected Officers. Seconded by Kevin McIntyre, the motion was approved unanimously.

The board then met in executive session. In this session, the board decided to recognize the efforts of VFDA staff in 2024 with a bonus payment of \$9000 to Stephanie Austin and \$5000 to Matt Cota. The VFDA President also approved Stephanie's proposed contract, which will begin on January 1, 2025.

Judy Taranovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m., seconded by Casey Cota, and approved it unanimously.