



Ward 5 NPA
DPW Conference Room, 645 Pine Street
September 21, 2016 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Draft Agenda

7:00 pm - Open Forum (15min)

7:15 - Oil bollards in Oakledge Park & Park Safety (Joan & Chip, City Council) (15 min)

7:30 - Rep Brian Cina on state bank (15 min)

7:45 - BPD Officer Burke - shantytowns, Oakledge safety, biking safety (15 min)

8:00 - School Commissioners - union negotiations and other updates (15 min)

The Steering Committee Members for Ward 5 are:

- Bill Keogh, bkeoghsr@yahoo.com
- Alec Bauer, awbauer@gmail.com
- Nate Orshan, natosongs@gmail.com
- Elisa Nelson, nelsmith@burlingtontelecom.net
- Mike Fife, mikefife37@gmail.com
- Ben Traverse, bentraverse@gmail.com
- Joanna Grossman, joeyinvermont@gmail.com

The Ward 5 NPA meets on the third Thursday, 7-9pm of each month at DPW/Parks and Rec at Lakeside and Pine Street. For more information about Ward 5 NPA visit <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CEDO/Neighborhood-Services/NPAs/Ward-5-NPA>



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Attendees

NPA (choose one)	Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly : 9/21/17 Location: DPW

Please return to your convenor,
or email to **cedofd@burlingtonvt.gov**

- 1 Nate Orshan
- 2 Ben Travers
- 3 ELISA NELSON
- 4 Barbara Shaw-Dero
- 5 Bill Keogh
- 6 Marcia Gustafson
- 7 McBower
- 8 ANDY SIMON
- 9 Mary Sullivan
- 10 JOE DERY
- 11 Jim Dunn
- 12 Susan Horigan
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City of Burlington Summary of Burlington Telecom Proposals
September 20, 2017

	TING/TUCOWS	SCHURZ	KBTL
Management	Successful operator for 24 Years (public company since 2001)	Successful operator for 144 Years	Majority owner is first-time operator
Offer/Source of Funding	\$27.5 million/Cash	\$30.8 million/Cash	\$12 million consisting of \$10.5 million cash and City retaining \$1.5 million interest/\$10million debt at 14% interest
Additional considerations	Will add \$0.5 million if financial target in excess of FY2018 plan met. Will be responsible for moving BT equipment out of Memorial Auditorium if necessary (estimated value of \$800,000).	Possible increase based on current fiscal year financial performance in excess of FY 2018 plan	All BT subscribers become coop members automatically at no additional cost to them (City will receive membership interest relative to service usage). KBTL will pay to move equipment from Memorial if necessary.
Potential City equity %	~20% (up to City's pro rata share of proceeds, with Tucows retaining right of first refusal on interest)	~20% (up to max of 33% if additional investment permitted)	City required to retain 12.5% ownership (offer is to purchase 87.5% of company)
Fiber build-out of Burlington	Will continue to support full build out as planned by BT (except for 120 homes)	Full build out by 2019, as currently planned by BT (except for 120 homes)	Will seek 100% buildout in Burlington

Projected capital investment over 5 years	Has agreed to fund planned BT cap expansion and will review plans for other expansion	Has agreed to fund planned BT cap expansion in amounts of \$6.2 to \$8.84 M through June 2021	Has proposed own cap ex schedule
Ongoing community investment in City	Annual contributions of \$60,000 into BTV Ignite and \$50,000 free TV advertising for local startups and community events and \$140,000 to other community projects	Expressed support for BTV Ignite and BTV's existing current and planned community commitments	Expressed support for BTV Ignite and continuing BTV's community involvement
Pricing commitment	No price increases for core Internet VOIP for at least 30 months Content cost increases on video passed on at cost	No broadband price increases to customers for at least 5 years Content cost increases on video passed on at cost	Not specifically addressed. City and School District required to agree to 10 year minimum service contract at existing BT prices
Customer service	Will maintain BTV's current customer service focus and add extended support hours and additional tools, such as web forums.	Will maintain BTV's current customer service focus and expand support hours.	Will maintain BTV's current customer service focus.
Anti-monopoly future sales restriction	Included	Included	Future sale not contemplated as co-op
Commitment to Net Neutrality policies	Included	Included	Included

Other terms to be discussed before final agreement

WE NEED A STATE BANK FOR

Our Planet — a Vermont state bank can provide game-changing, long-term low-interest financing that can power a transition to clean and renewable energy.

Students — a Vermont State Bank can provide low interest education loans.

Affordable Housing — to lend to projects that will house Vermonters.

Entrepreneurs — who need credit lines, loans, and other forms of finance to help their businesses grow and succeed.

Municipalities — the bank can offer competitive interest on public deposits and lower cost financing for public works.

Taxpayers — who will benefit from both the profits the bank makes and the services the bank offers.

Our Campaign

This fall and winter we are holding educational events across the state to build awareness around the idea of a state bank and our vision of investing in Vermont.

The state of North Dakota established a state bank almost one hundred years ago that is still serving the people of North Dakota to this day. Since the 2008 financial crisis, grassroots campaigns to establish state and municipal banks have sprung up across the country. At this very moment, many of those campaigns are knocking on the door of victory.



Get involved with the campaign:

Our campaign depends on incredible volunteers. If you are interested in helping any way big or small please reach out to us at:

vtneweconomy@gmail.com or (802) 552-0535

You can also learn more (or sign up to get involved) at

A Vermont State Bank

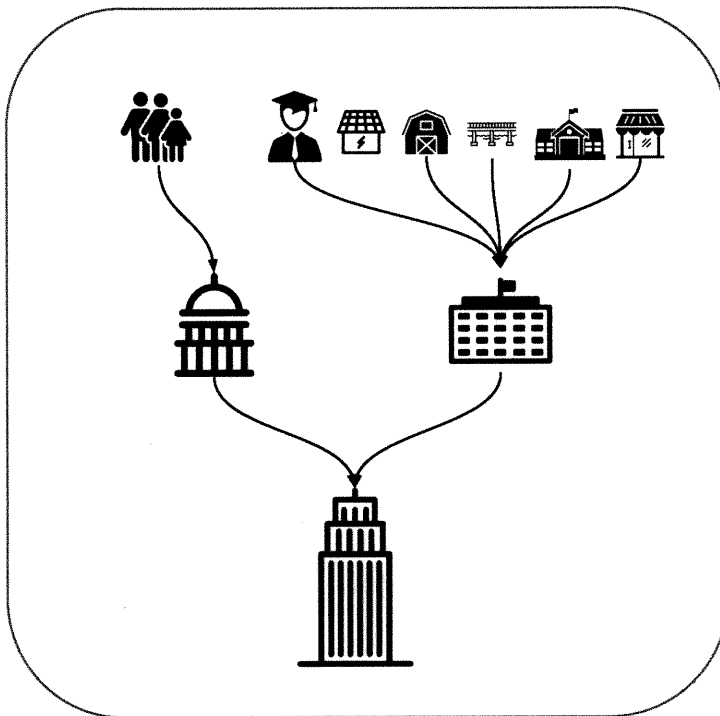
Bring our Money Home to Help Our People

Why establish a Vermont State Bank?

We believe that hard-working Vermonters deserve to have their tax dollars kept in Vermont rather than deposited in a private, out-of-state bank. By placing our taxes in a Vermont State Bank, we can circulate our money through our local economy and start earning returns – both for the state budget, instead of padding the pockets of Wall St. CEOs and stockholders.

We know that we can't expect Wall St. to serve our interests. And, with a changing global economy and political dysfunction in Washington D.C., there is no better time for us to seriously invest in Vermont than now. Vermonters want to keep the best from the past and carefully plan for the future. With a Vermont State Bank, we can take that vision into our own hands: growing our small and medium businesses, building stronger, more cohesive communities, and providing quality education, housing and jobs for all.

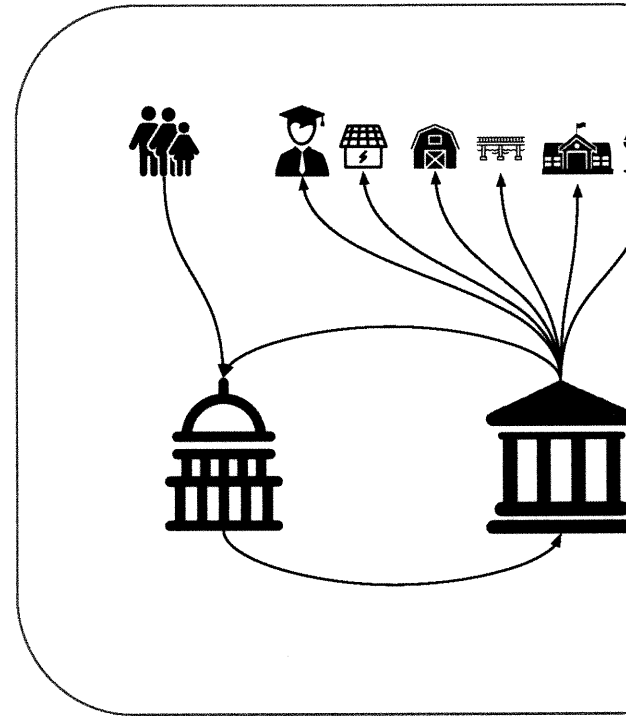
Depositing Taxes Outside of Vermont



What's Wrong With Sending Taxes out of State

- Tiny returns (between one-quarter and three-quarters of a percent)
- High interest and banking fees (over \$80 million every year)
- No transparency of or control over how our taxes are invested
- Expensive bonding and borrowing for

Bringing Our Money Home



Positive Possibilities of Bringing our Money Home

- Affordable in-state lending
- New revenue stream that would lower the burden on Vermont taxpayers or fund Vermont programs
- A mission to serve Vermonters



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes – Full Notes

Date of Assembly: 9/21/2017

Start Time: (Commence): 7:00 PM

Finish Time: (Adjourn): 8:50 PM

Location: DPW Building, Pine St.

Notetaker: Nate Orshan

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Alec Bauer
Joanna Grossman
Bill Keogh
Elisa Nelson
Nate Orshan
Ben Traverse

(1) Open Forum

Summary:

Announcements that Mike Fife has resigned from the steering committee; there's an AARP neighborhood grant application due 10/6; the DPW has finalized the Safe Routes to School plan for the Birchcliff neighborhood. A representative from Keep Burlington Telecom Local had fliers, lawn signs, and news. Joanna Grossman announced that she's running for City Market board. Jim Dunn announced that he's now part of the Police Commission from Ward 5.

Alec: Mike Fife has moved to Winooski and has left the Ward 5 NPA steering committee.

There's an AARP neighborhood grant application that people can apply for. The deadline is 10/6.

Information per email sent to the steering committee:

AARP is pleased to announce our **2017 Community Action Sponsorship Program for Burlington**, mini-grants of \$500-\$2,000 awarded to community projects focused on transportation, housing, accessibility, and community activities that foster multi-cultural and intergenerational connections in the Burlington area.

As a way to encourage and support grassroots action to make Burlington a more livable city we aim to prepare the city for the rapidly aging demographic shift – particularly in the areas

of housing, mobility and community engagement. **The deadline for applications is October 6, 2017.** This is a great opportunity for ad hoc neighborhood-based groups, small non-profits, PTOs, and NPAs to advance their work.

For further information and to access the RFP and application: <http://bit.ly/2xv2353>

We need your help spreading the word, kindly share with your networks.

Kelly Stoddard Poor | AARP Vermont | Associate State Director

199 Main St. | Suite 225 | Burlington, VT 05401

Office: [802.951.1313](tel:802.951.1313) | Cell: [802.393.9187](tel:802.393.9187)

Bill: Birchcliff neighborhood's worked with the Department of Public Works (DPW) re Safe Routes to School. They've decided they'll enhance the Cherry Ln and Birchcliff Pkwy crosswalk. The issue re the "itinerant route" for kids walking to Champlain School (through the alley connecting Calahan Park and the neighborhood is unresolved. (Apparently for now a neighbor (Nicholas Ponzio and Li Ling Young) is allowing people to cross using their property.)

Andy Simon: I have fliers for Keep Burlington Telecom Local (KBTL). Also a petition to that end. Also...lawn signs. (They'll pick 'em up afterward.) With the big news re the new transparency in the process, the advantage of making BT a utility co-op instead of it being owned by an outside entity is still intact. There are 3 finalists. The advantages of co-op: local control, transparency.

Ultimately, it's the City Council's decision, so the people who should know about it most urgently ARE the Council. Contact Chip & Joan. Write to Front Porch Forum (FPF).

Joanna: I'm running for the City Market board. You can vote for me!

Jim Dunn: I've been appointed to the Police Commission from Ward 5. There are a number of significant issues right now, including the whole role of the Police Department. I'll put some info on FPF re how to reach me.

(2) City Council Update
– South District Councilor Joan Shannon and Ward 5 Councilor Chip Mason

Summary:

Updated the NPA re the Burlington Telecom proposals made public this week; a report to come to the Council re safety issues on the Blanchard Beach bollards; and action items from the latest meeting re form-based code and the City Hall Park redesign.



Joan Shannon and Chip Mason

Chip passed out a Summary of Burlington Telecom Proposals:

<https://www.burlingtontelecom.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/City-of-Burlington-Summary-of-Burlington-Telecom-Proposals.pdf>

Chip: Re the recent tragedy of a person drowning at bollards (off of Blanchard Beach), a report to the City Council is being finalized. Removing the bollards is complicated, but we can remove, for example, the ladders. We'll be sharing on FPF.

Re the latest from the Council: BT's taken over the agenda! Notwithstanding, there were two action items on Monday.

- Form-based code. We anticipate it will be passed.
- City Hall Park redesign. Discussed and moved forward.

Re BT: Three offers released on 9/20. Input sought till 10/2. Council will then vote and reduce down to two bids, then a final vote on 10/16.

There were four bids originally advanced. One bidder withdrew, but I'm not at liberty to get into the "why"s.

Leaving aside price differentials, there are three different models.

- Ting/Tucows: Publicly traded company. Started out as domain registrar. This would be a larger acquisition for them, their first fiber network, but the CEO's excited.
- Schurz: Family-owned, headquartered out of Midwest, operation center on East Coast. They operate a few fiber networks.
- KBTL: Locally-owned co-op.

There were a lot of criteria bidders needed to meet, for example, net neutrality, commitment to expand. (See Summary of Burlington Telecom Proposals.)

Alec: Aside from the company models, the finances are different. Does the income dollar value net anything to the City?

Chip: Yes. When we were in litigation with Citi Capital, we did a settlement that included Blue Water Holdings. As a condition of their involvement, there's a waterfall for cash proceeds: \$6m repays debt, then 50% to Blue Water, some go to bankers that carried interest,...

Andy: In each scenario, how much does Blue Water get out of each offer?

Chip: They get an identified percentage, so if it's higher, their pro rata amount goes up, too.

Nate Orshan: Can Blue Water advocate for a particular bid?

Chip: If someone's a qualified purchaser, then they're prequalified. But for a *first-time* operator, they would need to get Blue Water's consent.

Nate: So only one of the three bidders DON'T need Blue Water's blessing?

Chip: That's my understanding.

Bill: Do applicants understand technical challenges for building out the city?

Chip: My understanding is that they all know that's supposed to happen.

Joan: We're not 100% clear on some of the homes. KBTL committed as well as cash would become available.

Bill: Another concern is that BT would end up in the lap of Comcast. Are there checks and balances?

Chip: Everyone's agreed to an anti-monopoly clause to preclude ever selling to, i.e., Comcast. But there's no meaningful way for us to enforce, for example, them selling to another party who THEN sells to Comcast.

Joan: This was one of our criteria. But if there's a foreclosure, then the clause isn't binding to the next buyer.

Andy: I understand the schedule now. How will the council make a decision? Is the deliberation in open session? Executive session? Do a straw vote? How much will be open to public?

Chip: There's no reason to believe we'll be in executive session.

Joan: It hasn't been open up to this point. This was so, if we had to go back to the bidders and say, "your bid needs to be strengthened in THIS area," we wouldn't be giving away exactly how much they need to do, i.e., so they don't bid just \$1 more the competition. But if we need legal advice or strategic discussions, then we'd do executive session.

Chip: The deal's not done on 10/16, but then it still needs to be "blessed" by the Public Service Board (state). The drop-dead date for us is 12/31 per terms of our agreement with Blue Water.

Joan: If we miss 12/31, the city gets a smaller percent of money (and Citi Capital gets more). That's why getting the PSB's blessing right the first time around is so important.

Chip: Specific email account for feedback: btfeedback@burlingtonvt.gov.

**(3) Presentation and Skit re the Possibility of a State Bank
– Representative Brian Cina (Chittenden-6-4) with Members of “Vermonters
for a New Economy”**

Summary:

Performed a skit demonstrating current issues with sending state tax revenue deposits to out-of-state banks. Advocated for starting a State Bank of Vermont that would serve Vermonters in a more helpful and less economically wasteful manner.



Al Honsig, KC Martell, and Brian Cina perform a skit



Al Honsig, KC Martell, Brian Cina, and Henry Jackson answer questions

Brian: I'm here with Vermonters for a New Economy. We're doing a skit that we're performing around the state. With me are:

- Al Honsig (Lives on Pearl St)
- KC Martell (Lives in Old North End on North Ave)
- Henry Jackson (Lives in Old North End)

(The four perform a skit in which a Vermont business wants to borrow 200 cookies from an out-of-state banker, who then proceeds to gratuitously complicate and sabotage the process by requiring substantial cookie deposits and cookie fees first.)

Brian: We're advocating for a State Bank of Vermont inspired by North Dakota State Bank. It would take the taxes the state currently deposits into out-of-state banks and use those deposits to do lower-interest loans to farmers, students, Vermont towns, and businesses needing credit lines.

KC: Out-of-state banks essentially lend our own tax money back. A public alternative would cut out the middleman and avoid, for example, derivative markets, destructive industries. One example is housing: we're 48th in nation for affordable housing, so this could help these buyers.

Brian: Crumbling infrastructure would be helped. For example, think of Hurricane Irene reconstruction.

Henry: The last such bank was created in 1919 in North Dakota. It helped them ride out the 2007-2008 financial crisis better, because they kept working when big banks were pulling back on lending. We think that now's the time to do something like this here.

Brian: Getting the North Dakota bank wasn't smooth, either. There's a colorful history. I can see resistance from banking lobby.

Joan: North Dakota's larger than us. Could you speak to the size difference. Also, what about startup cost?

Henry: There's money around from various sources.

KC: North Dakota's slightly larger, and its economy is more dependent on fossil fuel industry.

Brian: We wouldn't necessarily be following their model. There are other models available, for example, Germany. We're trying to gauge Vermonters' interest right now! By January, hopefully we will have a menu of legislation for the legislature to select from.

(4) Burlington Police Department Update – Lt. Brad Trombley

Summary:

Shared updates re bike safety data. Discussed latest news re an encampment off of Sears Ln being slated to be cleared out by 10/10.



Lt. Brad Trombley

Lt. Trombley: Re Oak Ledge, the Mayor's office convened a group of stakeholders.
Re Bike safety: Looking at crash data, we're not seeing an increase following road improvements. We're also not stopping bicyclists for infractions.
Re encampments: Lacey Smith passes along that 10/10 is date for cleanup in the encampment off of Sears Ln. It'll be a slow removal process. The City Attorney made the decision. I met with the people down there. They understand that neighbors are concerned about criminal activity.

Bill: Where will those people go?

Lt. Trombley: They enjoy this lifestyle and have options but prefer it. I don't know where they will go. We provide them with options, but...some like the nomad lifestyle.

Bill: How much of a drug issue is there in the South End?

Lt. Trombley: It's just as prevalent here as in any other area. There's no gender or race more likely to have a problem. We have an epidemic, from street people to nurses and doctors. As always, if you see something suspicious, call. If it's nothing. J

Ibnar Avilix: Is there a place online to see incidents?

Lt. Trombley: You can see on our site, e.g., a heatmap. (See <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/Police/Data/Dashboard>)

Ibnar: Has there been a rise?

Lt. Trombley: I have NOT seen a rise.

Chip: Was there a change in the encampment policy? My recollection was you couldn't camp out on City property. Is this the first year where there's been that issue?

Lt. Trombley: I have been here 19 years, and every year people camp out in same places.

Joanna: I run on Sears Ln. I have mixed feelings about the encampments. Is there a regular patrol there usually?

Lt. Trombley: Not on a daily basis, but there's an officer always working in the South End. And always call us if you have a concern.

Ben: Re encampment conditions, people said there was more crime in shelters.

Lt. Trombley: Maybe they had personal experiences. In shelters, there's a lot of being told when to leave and when to check in, and they may not want that. I think they just prefer the lifestyle.

Joanna: If there was a child there?

Lt. Trombley: We would DEFINITELY check into that.

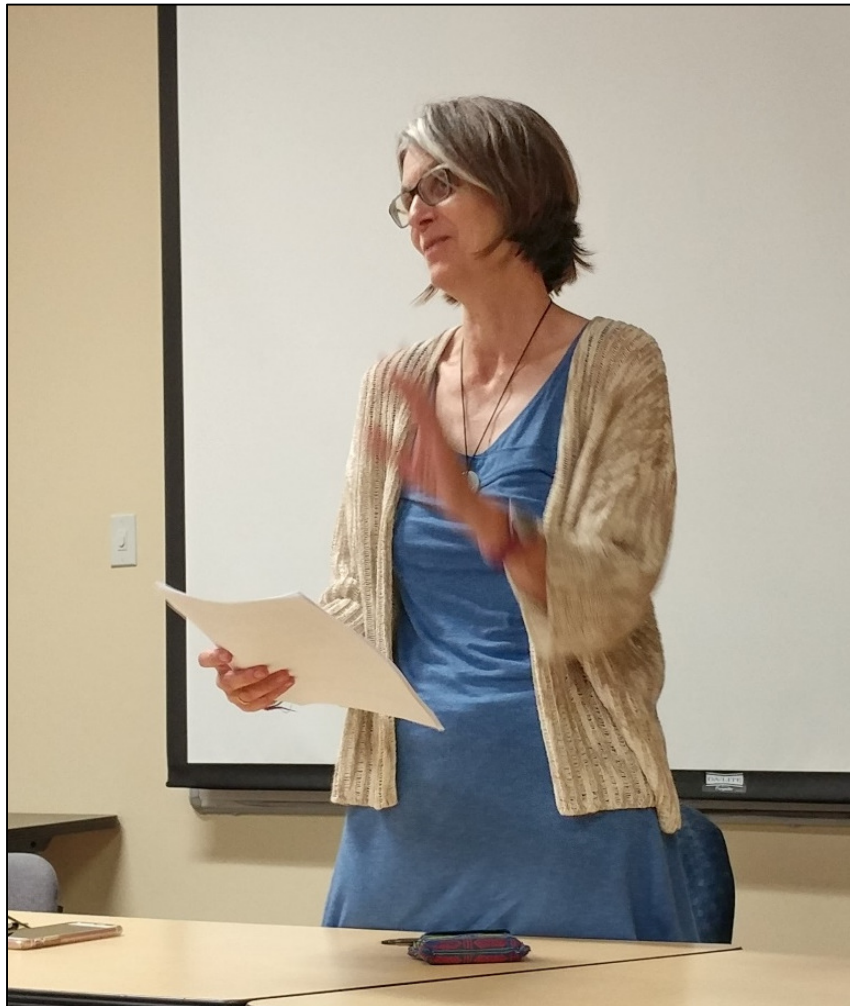
Ibnar: Is there an initiative to ask folks to leave?

Lt. Trombley: The City Attorney was responding to public safety concerns. We had to draw a line eventually.

**(5) Burlington School Board Update
– Commissioner Susanmarie Harrington**

Summary:

Shared updates re the outcome of the recent teacher strike and negotiations for a new, two-year contract. Discussed issues relating to the process of arriving at the contract and using a facilitated process going forward.



Susanmarie Harrington

Susanmarie: Building budget for next school year starts soon, but good news is we have a two-year contract.

The strike is over. After negotiations ended, there was a joint statement to media. Commitment from Board and Union to build a different kind of relationship and change the dynamic between the two groups. I'll be sharing the remarks on FPF tonight.

Even though there are huge consequences to the community from labor disputes, it's become clear that the board and the Burlington Education Association (BEA) were

talking about the same thing: Spending quality time with the kids. So even in midst of conflict, there was more that united us than divided us.

(Goes over features of the contract...)

All teachers in VT are moving to new health insurance on 1/1/2018. That's outside of district's control.

Andy: Do you think the new commitment to better relationship could've been achieved without a strike?

Susanmarie: I don't know. If teachers strike, I don't think, "This is an insult".

Alec: Some schools have had differential responsibility re lunch and recess duty. Will Champlain School teachers now be responsible for that?

Susanmarie: Yes. One of Superintendent Obeng's priorities is to make all nine schools more similar in practices such as these. He's asked every principal to work up a schedule. So there will be a baseline.

Ben: How did "imposition" become a dirty word? It included, I assume, a 2% raise or whatever the last, best offer was.

Susanmarie: I believe it was 2.4%. This raise is now 2.5%. We did the imposition on the date the contract expired. There's a process including using a mediator, then a fact-finder. The union has a right to strike afterward, and the board has a right to impose the contract.

Joanna: Looking forward, I feel that we got into this situation because paraeducators were cut three years ago.

Susanmarie: We will be guided by what the superintendent requires.

Chip: Clearly there's a lot of bad blood between the sides. What's the plan to try to amend that?

Susanmarie: We're not going to use the federal mediation service, but if you google [fed mediation Service labor relations], you'll find their process. We're not doing that, but we've committed to doing some kind of facilitated process to improve things.

What I may be holding on to some resentment about is email from neighbors telling how stupid the school board is. I think it's damaging when there's a loud voice in the community saying that you're not supporting the teachers. The discourse is a sign of a flaw in the system.

Alec: It would be great if the board and BEA craft the budget in a more collaborative manner instead of in two silos. Next year's budget vote in March would be a good time to beta-test it.

Andy: Where you get your info is important. The Burlington Free Press is too limited. I'd encourage people to also read VTDigger, FPF, Seven days,...the BFP doesn't always serve us.

Motion to adjourn adopted at 8:50 PM.

<END>



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

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Notetaker: **Nate Orshan**

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

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Joanna Grossman
Bill Keogh
Elisa Nelson
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Discussion Topics and Action Items:

(1) Open Forum

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