



**VERMONT MUNICIPAL CLERKS' AND TREASURERS' ASSOCIATION
85th ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
LAKE MOREY INN
FAIRLEE, VERMONT
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association was held at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, Vermont. Registration was from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. with a breakfast buffet and an opportunity to visit the vendor booths. The vendor participants were:

Auctions International	LHS Associates
ClerkBase	Mascoma Bank
Community Bank, NA	NEMRC
Community National Bank	People's United Bank
Cott Systems	Property Valuation & Review
DuPont Storage Systems	Rubeck Election Services
Elections Systems & Software	VLCT/MAC
Kofile Technologies	Voting Works

VMCTA BUSINESS MEETING

President Georgette Wolf-Ludwig; called the business meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. She led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance then introduced the VMCTA Executive Board.

Review/Approve 2020 Minutes

Georgette noted the VMCTA Annual Meeting was held via Zoom for the first time ever last year. It was certainly a noteworthy occurrence.

Charles Degener, Woodstock; made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Tim Arsenault, Vernon. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

President Wolf-Ludwig, 1st Vice-President Tracy Borst, and Treasurer Susan McNamara-Hill, Essex; presented the 2021- 2022 VMCTA proposed budget and treasurer's report to the membership. Susan explained there were line notes on the bottom of the budget to explain the differences. There is money being put aside each year for the new website. The website host expense is up this year. The money market account includes unused scholarship money and extra money that was set aside for IIMC (International Institute of Municipal Clerks). As our President, Georgette was unable to attend an IIMC conference on our behalf due to conferences being cancelled because of Covid. It was suggested Georgette and soon to be sworn in President, Tracy Borst, both attend the 2022 IIMC Conference at VMCTA's expense. Heidi Racht, Huntington, suggested the unused scholarship money be transferred to offset the new website expense. Georgette explained a notable sum of money is given specifically for scholarship use. Money is also donated in memory of previous members. Sandra Pinsonault, Dorset, also the Scholarship Committee Chair, explained \$2,000 is in the scholarship line item each year. People do not apply. She asked members present to please apply for scholarships. A scholarship can be used for VMCTA's Annual Conference, attendance at New England Municipal Clerk's Institute and Academy (NEMCI&A), the New England Association of City and Town Clerk's (NEACTC) Conference. The Scholarship Committee would love to see enough requests come in to spend the money. She asked people not to hesitate to apply, especially if they were trying to earn points for their Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) or Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) certifications. More discussion followed regarding the unused scholarship line-item money and adding it to the anticipated website expense. It was suggested instead of sending two individuals to IIMC using the IIMC budget line item, send one out of the IIMC line item and the other using scholarship money. Sandra Pinsonault made a motion seconded by Tim Arsenault to amend the budget presented by decreasing the IIMC line item by \$2,100 and increasing the website line item to \$4,260. All members voted in favor. The amendment to the budget carried. Carol Dawes, Barre City, made a motion, seconded by Tim Arsenault, in favor of approving the Fiscal Year 2022 VMCTA Budget as amended. All members in favor. The motion carried.

Auditor's Report

President Wolf-Ludwig turned the meeting over to Auditor Sue Gage, Brandon, who reported she reviewed the bank reconciliations, warrants, and receipts of the VMCTA for the fiscal year to date and found the records to be in good standing with no discrepancies found. Carol Dawes made a motion seconded by Tim Arsenault in favor of accepting the Auditor's Report. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Nominating Committee's Report

President Wolf-Ludwig turned the meeting over to the Chair of the Nominating Committee 2nd Vice President Diane Judd, Holland. Diane announced the following slate of officers for VMCTA's Executive Board as nominated:

Tracy Borst, Thetford	President
Diane Judd, Holland	1 st Vice-President
Diana Vachon, Shelburne	2 nd Vice-President
Dawn Custer, Hubbardton	Secretary

Susan McNamara-Hill, Essex
Sue Gage, Brandon
Sara Haskins, Morristown
Karmen Bascom, South Royalton
Charles Degener, Woodstock
Anita Sheldon, Manchester

Treasurer
Auditor
Member at Large (1-year term)
Member at Large (1-year term)
Member at Large (2-year term)
Member at Large (2-year term)

Tim Arsenault made the motion to elect the slate of officers as nominated. There were no other nominations from the floor. Carol Dawes seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion carried. The VMCTA Officers were duly elected. President Wolf-Ludwig announced the newly elected officers would be sworn into office by Secretary of State Jim Condos during this evening's banquet.

Legislative Policy

President Wolf-Ludwig turned the meeting over to Carol Dawes, Chair of the Legislative Committee. Carol noted the session was completely virtual this year. There was an emergency legislative session for the handling of Town Meeting. This legislative session -

- Fixed the Vital Records laws. Grandchildren were added to the list of those eligible to obtain a certified copy of a death certificate.
- Fixed the recording fees for tax sale documents. The fee changed from \$10/page to \$15/page
- If a homestead declaration is filed by October 13th. Adjustments can be applied for up to three years later. Refunds come directly from the state to the person declaring the homestead.
- The liquor license renewal process is moving to online renewals. The hope is to be paperless. It will be in effect for 2023.
- The legislature looked at rank choice voting. There is not a lot of legislative support for it.
- Legislation has been drafted associated with the Uniform Real Property Records Act. It will move clerks in the direction of accepting electronic recording documents and notary documents.

For the 2022 session they are working with Property Valuation & Review regarding abstract grand lists and their retention.

The Federal Freedom to Vote Act is being considered. It would require clerk offices to be open eight hours a day for fifteen days before an election.

It is hoped there will be vital records rule fixes. We would like to see an expansion of the list of acceptable or alternative identifications allowed and clarification as to the difference between a non-certified copy and a file copy.

Georgette informed the members the VMCTA lobbyist was scheduled to attend and present but had to cancel.

New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy (NEMCI&A)

President Wolf-Ludwig introduced Tracy Borst, Thetford and Tammy Legacy, Roxbury. Tracy explained the various levels of certification. Vermont offers the opportunity for its clerks and treasurers to become Certified Vermont Clerks or Certified Vermont Treasurers through education programs offered by VMCTA and others. NEMCI is an education program and a sub-committee of the New England Association of City and Town Clerks. It is a program offered to New England and New York clerks. The International Institute of Municipal Clerks offers certifications as a Certified Municipal Clerk or a Master Municipal Clerk. The IIMC has strict guidelines to meet these certification requirements. It is prestigious. NEMCI&A is an approved IIMC education institution. All the classes meet the education requirements for the IIMC certification program. The board has twelve members. Two from each of the six New England states. Tammy's term ends in 2022 and Tracy's in 2023. If you have attended NEMCI&A and would like to give back, please let us know. NEMCI takes place one week a year for three years. The venue is Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. At the end of the three-year period, you receive enough points for both your IIMC and VMCTA certifications. The Academy Program follows NEMCI and helps you earn points toward your MMC. 2020 and 2021 were challenging years. In person training was canceled and it was all moved to an online on-demand training.

New England Association of City and Town Clerks (NEACTC)

Tammy Legacy, this year's NEACTC President, thanked Tracy Borst for her work at NEMCI. She went beyond to ensure that there were opportunities available. Tammy continued reporting noting the NEACTC conference is in Vermont at the Spruce Peak Lodge in Stowe this year. The conference dates are November 17th – 19th with an Athenian scheduled for the 16th. You will not want to miss the seminars. She thanked everyone who helped.

International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC)

President Wolf-Ludwig introduced Sandra Pinsonault, IIMC Region 1 Director. Sandy began by explaining IIMC is the top of the cake. There are thirteen world regions. We are Region 1 because NEMCI was the first. We are the only region not attached to a specific university. We have been fighting to keep the program accredited. With Tracy's leadership since COVID and getting the classes online, IIMC's eyes were opened to how viable our program at NEMCI is. Tracy did a fantastic job as the NEMCI&A director. The six New England states and New York are Region 1. The IIMC Annual Conference for 2022 is in Little Rock, Arkansas. Two IIMC scholarships, to attend the conference, are offered per region. No one applies. The Region 1 meeting will be held in March 2022 in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

County Reports

The following counties reported:

Chittenden – It was reported the clerks have met online. Work is being done on redistricting.

Washington, Lamoille, and surrounding friends – reported they met every other month during COVID. Discussions included elections, COVID, reapportionment, challenging the checklist, and ARPA.

Other Business

President Wolf-Ludwig asked for a motion to recess the meeting until the evening's swearing in of officers. Tim Arsenault mad a motion seconded by Diane Judd to recess the 85th VMCTA Annual Meeting at 1:55 p.m. until the evening's swearing in of officers. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Attest: Dawn Custer
VMCTA Secretary

The 85th Anniversary Banquet began with the posting of the Colors by members of American Legion Post #79 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. John Odum, Montpelier City Clerk led the assembly in the Star-Spangled Banner.

President Georgette Wolf-Ludwig welcomed distinguished guests to the 85th Anniversary of the VMCTA. She expressed her appreciation to the Lake Morey Inn and its staff. She noted the VMCTA was established during the Depression and is still thriving during COVID-19. She raised her glass in a toast, joined by all those present, in honor of VMCTA members, past, present, and future.

Clyde Jenne, Mast of Ceremonies for the evening and retired Hartland Town Clerk, began the evening with fun facts about 1936, the year of origin for VMCTA (Treasurers were added to the Association in 1947). In 1936 postage was 3¢, eggs 33¢/dozen, gas 19¢/gallon, movies 13¢/person – there was no such thing as a rated R movie. The average house price was \$4,625. On March 11, 1936, there was a flood in the Connecticut River Valley. It rained for fourteen straight days. The Olympic games were held in Germany and were the last games until 1948.

The following certifications were presented by Diane Judd, Holland.

2020 Certified Vermont Treasurer

Sara Haskins, Morristown

2021 Certified Vermont Clerk

Stacey Jewell, St. Johnsbury; Susan McNamara-Hill, Essex; Kathleen Neathawk, Rockingham;
Diana Vachon, Shelburne

2021 Certified Vermont Treasurer

Tracy Borst, Thetford; Susan McNamara-Hill, Essex;
Kristie Wadsworth, Assistant Treasurer, Thetford

2021 Cum Laude Town Clerk & Treasurer

Diane Judd, Holland

2021 Magnum Cum Laude Town Clerk & Treasurer

Patti Lewis, Fayston

2021 Magnum Cum Laude Town Clerks

Donna Kinville, South Burlington; Heidi Racht, Huntington; Lucrecia Wonsor, Killington

President Wolf-Ludwig presented the Assistant Clerk of the Year Award, as well as the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer of the Year Awards.

Municipal Town Clerk of the Year: Donna Kinville, South Burlington

Municipal Town Treasurer of the Year: Stacey Jewell, St. Johnsbury

The Award of Appreciation is a way to recognize individuals who serve the Association, not necessarily being a clerk or treasurer

Award of Appreciation: Sara Haskins, Morristown

Honorary Membership – VMCTA’s Highest Distinction

Representative Pattie McCoy
Karen Richard

Secretary of State Jim Condos swore in the newly elected VMCTA officers. A round of applause was given to all the evening’s award recipients and for the newly elected officers.

VMCTA President Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Fairlee addressed those present noting it was a wonderful banquet and how grateful she was that everyone was having a wonderful time. She noted nothing is more meaningful than to be honored by one’s peers. She thanked the E-Board for its support over the last two years, the committee members who worked hard as we faced challenges, we took comfort in knowing we were not alone. She acknowledged she is so fortunate to be passing the gavel to Tracy Borst, who is very capable. Georgette explained her gift in parting as the Association’s President was a purchase of a gavel, which she now gladly passes to Tracy Borst of Thetford.

As Tracy took the podium, she noted Georgette had ensured that no one was left behind during COVID. The listserv, usually reserved for VMCTA members was opened to all non-members. She hosted the first online VMCTA Annual Meeting. She concerned herself with the smallest details of the Annual Meeting and Conference including the color of the napkins at lunch. She presented Georgette with a plaque and gift from the E-Board. Tracy began, as President, and looking ahead to the next two years, and behind to all the past Presidents who inspired her, she was honored to be chosen to follow them. VMCTA has strong committees and respect for one another. She noted over the next two years she would like to see an increase in membership, more of a voice in the legislature, clerks and treasurers reaching out to their neighboring clerks and treasurers. Members who will continue to network and support one another. She closed by saying she is blessed to know and be able to work with all of Vermont’s clerks and treasurers and she thanked everyone for honoring the request to wear masks.