



**VERMONT MUNICIPAL CLERKS' AND TREASURERS' ASSOCIATION
86th ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
LAKE MOREY INN
FAIRLEE, VERMONT
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

The 86th 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:

Avenu	Property Valuation & Review
Community Bank, NA	Records Force
Community National Bank	Repro
DuPont Storage Systems	Union Bank
General Code	Vermont Attorneys Title
Kofile Technologies	VT Secretary of State
LHS Associates	VLCT MAC
Mascoma Bank	VSARA
NEMRC	
Passumpsic Bank	

VMCTA BUSINESS MEETING

1st Vice President Diane Judd; called the business meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. She led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance then introduced the VMCTA Executive Board. She explained VMCTA President Tracy Borst could not attend this year's conference. Thankfully she left an exhaustive number of notes with step by step directions regarding the procedures and operations of the conference. She may not be physically here but she is with us in spirit!

Review/Approve 2021 Minutes

Tim Arsenault, Vernon; made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Charles Degener, Woodstock. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Susan McNamara-Hill, Essex, presented the FY23 budget. She noted it is similar to last year's budget with a slight increase in the lobbyist fees. It increased to \$15,000 from \$13,500. Not all expenses and receipts for the conference are in yet. Sara Haskins, Morrisville, explained the newly added Star Chapter budget item. It is a management software system. Information can be shared from one board to the next. There will be a new VMCTA website and Star Chapter will train us on how to move forward. The forum it offers is more organized than the listserv. Members can sign up to follow specific threads. Event registration will be through Star Chapter, participation certificates can be printed. Payment will be accepted by check or by paying with a credit card online. It is hoped it will go live on January 1st. Tammy Legacy, Roxbury wondered how much it cost. The answer was \$1,300 startup cost then \$133 per month. Heidi Racht, Huntington, made a motion seconded by Tammy Legacy in favor of accepting the Treasurer's Report. All members voted in favor. The motion carried. Sandra Pinsonault, Dorset, made a motion seconded by Maggie McCormick, Panton, in favor of approving the VMCTA budget as presented. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Auditor's Report

1st Vice President Diane Judd explained Auditor Sue Gage, Brandon, could not be present at this year's conference. She emailed her auditor's report which noted no errors were found. Charles Degener made a motion seconded by Tim Arsenault in favor of accepting the auditor's report. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Sandra Pinsonault read the proposed amendment which was included in member packets. The change proposed, rather than membership dues amounts being defined in the Constitution the Constitution gives the right to review and change dues to the VMCTA's Executive Board. The Board is to review and discuss dues annually. Sandra Pinsonault made a motion seconded by Stacey Jewell, St. Johnsbury, in favor of accepting the proposed change to the VMCTA Constitution, Article III; Section 6 Dues. Diana Vachon, Shelburne, explained the Membership Committee was trying to clarify membership and found in doing so the dues had not changed in years. Charles Degener added there was quite a bit of discussion about it on the E-Board and it was determined this offers an easier and cleaner way to address the changes without having to change the Constitution each time. It was asked if membership belongs to the individual or town. It was explained the membership follows the person. If someone should transfer to a different town as an assistant or appointed town clerk or treasurer their membership would still be theirs. It was wondered if ample notice would be given if there is an increase in dues to ensure the increase could be included in a town's budget. Belinda Harris-Clegg, Wolcott, made a motion seconded by Tim Arsenault to call the vote. All members voted in favor. The motion carried. The vote for the main article, to accept the proposed change to the VMCTA Constitution Article III; Section 6. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Nominating Committee's Report

1st Vice President Diane Judd turned the meeting over to the Chair of the Nominating Committee 2nd Vice President Diana Vachon. Diana 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	Treasurer
Sue Gage, Brandon	Auditor
Sara Haskins, Morrisville	Member at Large (1-year term)
Karmen Bascom, South Royalton	Member at Large (1-year term)
Charles Degener, Woodstock	Member at Large (2-year term)
Anita Sheldon, Manchester	Member at Large (2-year term)

Carol Dawes, Barre City, made a motion seconded by Belinda Harris-Clegg in favor of closing the nominations. All members voted in favor. The motion carried. Sandra Pinsonault made the motion seconded by Eithne Eldred, Wilmington, to elect the slate of officers as nominated. All members were in favor. The motion carried. The VMCTA Officers were duly elected. 1st Vice President Diane Judd announced the newly elected officers would be sworn into office by Secretary of State Jim Condos during this evening's banquet.

Award Presentation

The Assistant Clerk of the Year is nominated by a peer, must have served 5-years in the position and is active in a professional organization.

Assistant Clerk of the Year

Congratulations Britney Pombar, Roxbury

Legislative Policy

Carol Dawes, Chair of the Legislative Committee, noted the main item this year was reapportionment. A lot of time was spent on this. It was running late, there was a lot of fighting and delays. This limited the number of items worked on by the legislature.

Acts 77 & 79 – enacted emergency election law.

One act removed the residency requirement for marriage licenses. People can now get a marriage license in any Vermont town. The resident town must be sent a copy.

Act 73 – Emergency Open Meeting Law change. Holding virtual/electronic meetings (no in person option) via Zoom sunsets on January 15th. After which it goes back to normal. Hybrid meetings are acceptable but there must be a physical location with at least one person present.

Act 171 – The creation of a land records commission started by Andy Michel with bankers and

realtors. They tried to walk around clerks by appealing to the Commerce Committee. VSARA and VLCT worked with the clerks.

There is a Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act. It is a way to move in the direction of electronic recording.

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

Tammy Legacy noted NEMCI&A met in person. Vermont had several graduates – Anita Sheldon, Manchester, Kathleen Neathawk, Rockingham, and Julie Weber, Pownal.

International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC)

1st Vice President Diane Judd noted Tracy Borst attended IIMC where she was a flag bearer. Scholarships are available for those interested in attending NEMCI and IIMC. The Region I Conference will be held in Cooperstown, New York in March.

New England Association of City and Town Clerks (NEACTC)

Tammy Legacy reported the conference was in Stowe last year. Vermont will be hosting the conference again in 2027. The 2022 conference is in Chatham, Massachusetts.

County Reports

Sarah Haskins reported the North Central County Clerks have a meeting on Zoom Monday. She asked clerks to find her if interested in attending.

Karmen Bascom reported the Orange-Windsor clerks had two meetings. It was slow moving this year.

Tim Arsenault reported Windham County had one meeting on Zoom.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

VMCTA Business meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m. with a motion made by Tim Arsenault, seconded by Maggie McCormick. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Attest: Dawn Custer
VMCTA Secretary

The 2022 awards presentations were held after the banquet. Before the presentation of awards 1st Vice President Diane Judd led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance. Tim Arsenault sang the National Anthem. Diane welcomed everyone to the Annual Banquet and welcomed Secretary of State Jim Condos, VMCTA members, guests, and our vendors. She thanked the staff of the Lake Morey Resort for their staff and taking care of us. She informed those present, Patti Lewis, Fayston has run with the idea of writing a book which has the stories of clerks and treasurers. The book, once published, is intended to be sold as a fundraiser for VMCTA. Please consider sharing your stories.

The following certifications were presented by Diana Vachon, Shelburne.

2022 Certified Vermont Clerks

Susan Moraska, Shelburne; Julie Weber, Pownal; Debra Tanguay, Coventry; and Mitzi Fleming, Morristown

Municipal Assistant Town Clerk of the Year: Britney Pombar, Roxbury (award at the Annual Meeting)

Municipal Town Clerk of the Year: Linda Parent, Richmond

Municipal Town Treasurer of the Year: Sue Johnson, Cornwall

Award of Appreciation: Patti Lewis, Fayston

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.

Diane Judd asked Secretary Condos to wait to be seated. She continued, Secretary of State Jim Condos was thanked for his years of service to the State of Vermont, to our profession and this Association. Jim is retiring. He has shared that he has never vacationed during Town Meeting week. In his retirement he is heading to warmer climates. Before he goes, we, the VMCTA, have a few things to help him on his way. A gift was presented to the parting Secretary of State.

Diane Judd delivered President Tracy Borst's prepared remarks. It takes a village is a quote that comes to mind. Many fabulous people make up this Association and give their time to the Association and its events. Retirees Karen Richard, Priscilla Aldrich and Clyde Jenne welcomed us at registration. Sara Haskins has spent numerous hours working on Star Chapter and other events of the year. The Education Committee does amazing work. The Membership Committee, Lucrecia Wonsor, Killington, who is our webmaster, the Fundraising, Scholarship and Legislation Committees and the entire E-Board, yes it takes a Village. Tracy's assistants Marie Betts and Kristie Wadsworth were thanked for their everyday support and a special thanks to Tammy Legacy and Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Fairlee, to whom Tracy goes to for all things VMCTA. As people working in local government, you look into the eyes and hearts of the people you serve. You represent them, help them, work for them, yet you are not always seen. Put forward what you do, shout it, tell them – the boards, the public, the press, let them know what you do. Put forth your profession and demand the same respect you give. Clerks and treasurers are people filled with kindness, helpfulness, and empathy. If you are new to your position, reach out to neighboring peers, the VMCTA, join committees, attend training, make friends and welcome what this group has to offer. The 2023 VMCTA Annual Conference will be September 14th & 15th at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier.

Side note ~ Thank you, Diane Judd – for filling in effortlessly at the last minute!! Thank you, Tracy Borst, for all your time spent preparing for this conference and your meticulous attention to detail and notes!!