

**VMCTA EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 12, 2020
Via Zoom (an online meeting provider)**

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Fairlee; Past President Donna Kinville, South Burlington; 1st Vice President Tracy Borst, Thetford; 2nd Vice President Julie Graeter, Colchester; Treasurer Audra Girouard, Concord; and Members at Large – Charles Degener, Woodstock; Deb Hawkins, Pawlet; Diane Judd, Holland and Diana Vachon, Shelburne

MEMBERS ABSENT: Secretary Dawn Custer, Hubbardton and Auditor Sue Gage, Brandon

OTHERS PRESENT: Carol Dawes, Barre City Clerk/Treasurer; Jill Remick and Deanna Robitaille both of Property Valuation and Review (PVR)

9:35 a.m. – President Georgette Wolf-Ludwig called the meeting to order.

AGENDA REVIEW AND MODIFICATIONS

No modifications were made to the agenda.

PVR REPORT: ACT 175 Education Property Tax Billing and Collection Report

Jill Remick discussed the potential changes to education property tax billing and collection. The state is considering sending education tax bills to homeowners in lieu of towns doing it and the state will also collect the education tax money. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to send a survey to its membership to get input from town treasurers.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update Regarding Action by the Connecticut Attorney Title Insurance Company (CATIC)

Carol Dawes reported CATIC is represented locally by Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC of Burlington. Chris Roy of the Burlington firm sent a letter noting he is representing Andy Michaels of CAITC. The potential lawsuit pertained to Vermont land records and zoning records not being accessible online for all Vermont towns. The suit was specific to certain towns in Chittenden County. There was discussion amongst Board members. It was decided VMCTA does not have the authority to take a stand on the issue. Each Vermont town is autonomous; each making an individual decision regarding the online availability of land and zoning records. During 2020, a year unique unto itself because of COVID-19 and restrictions pertaining to the virus, many offices remained open to serve. Clerks were there to ensure land records were available to those requesting them, if not in person, via e-mail. Maura Carroll, Executive Director of Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns reached out to VMCTA as well to offer guidance in needed. The Board does not feel comfortable with VMCTA taking a stand.

Carol also reported the Department of Liquor Control is considering different legislation. They are looking for clerks who may be willing to serve on an ad-hoc committee. Tracy Borst and Georgette Wolf-Ludwig both volunteered. There was brief discussion pertaining to liquor applications.

B. Retirees Serving on Committees

There was brief discussion regarding retirees serving on committees. Board members decided to review committee descriptions and, in the meantime, table further discussion until a following meeting.

C. Possible Cancellation of the Card Room Day at the State House

Overall, the Board felt the Card Room Day should be canceled in 2021. Members of the legislature are not meeting in person. Donna Kinville will reach out to reserve VMCTA a spot for 2022.

D. How to Handle In-Person Trainings for 2021 due to COVID

Concerns were discussed. It was agreed to wait and see how the year goes. More definitive answers will be made as the year progresses.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF August 21, 2020 MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2020 meeting as presented. All members were in favor. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Audra Girouard reported there were two warrants to sign and approve. The first, dated August 20 – September 30, 2020 was for \$2,552.14 of which \$2,000 was for Andy Masters’ presentation at the Annual Conference. The second warrant dated October 1 – November 06, 2020 was for \$1,345. This consisted of the annual tax return preparation and \$1,000 in annual support to Vermont Government Finance Officers’ Association. The motion to pay both warrants was moved and seconded. All members voted in favor. So, voted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2020 Annual Meeting/Conference via Zoom

Overall, people were pleased with the way the meeting was conducted and adapted for COVID-19.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Membership Committee

Diana Vachon reported there are 405 members. Last year there were 358. In addition, there are 5 associate members. A few of the members who did not previously belong to the Association and were granted free access during the start of COVID-19 joined.

B. Fundraising Committee

Diane Judd reported the Athenian Dialogs have been successful. There is another scheduled for February 7, 2020. The Committee is considering a calendar raffle for the future. Leftover items such as vests are still for sale.

C. Education Committee

Julie Graeter reported the Education Committee will begin meeting again soon. Over 40 individuals attended the Andy Masters workshop. It is not a lot, but it was good for the first virtual training at the Annual Conference. Future virtual trainings will be discussed by the Committee.

The next E-Board meeting was set for December 10, 2020, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Adjourn: Georgette Wolf-Ludwig adjourned the meeting with the consensus of the Board about 11:30 a.m.

Attest: _____
Dawn Custer
VMCTA Secretary