

Minutes DRAFT
WASHINGTON COUNTY CLERKS & TREASURERS ASSOCIATION
Thursday, January 25, 2018
THE STEAK HOUSE
BERLIN

5:30PM – Social time

6:00PM – Dinner

Attendance: Rosie Laquerre, Denise Sparrow (East Montpelier), Lisa Walker, Teresa Hoadley, Belinda Clegg, Linda Martin (Wolcott), Mitzi Fleming, Sara Haskins (Morristown), Diana Peduzzi (Woodbury), Cathy Mander-Adams, (Belvidere) Tammy Legacy (Roxbury), Donna Kelty (Barre Town), Patti Lewis (Fayston), Maureen Harvey (Duxbury) Winnie Valenza (Marshfield), Judy Fitch Robert (Calais) Presenters: Maida Townsend, House Government Operations (Chittenden – 7-4) and Jeanette White, Senate Government Operations (Windham)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Sara Haskins.

Introductions were made around the table.

Approval of minutes from October 26, 2017 meeting

Request to change spelling of Shilling to Schilling and change spelling of Sara Haskins' name. Motion to approve minutes moved and seconded. Minutes approved as amended.

Treasurer's report by Winnie Valenza

A hand out was provided with the profit and loss detail and balance sheet. Approval of report was moved and seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

Select program & location for April 26th meeting

Ideas for the program were discussed. Retention schedule for records was a topic considered. Location was discussed and ideas were floated, including the Waterbury town office.

Program: Legislative updates from chairs of the Senate & House Government Operations Committees: Sen. Jeanette White & Rep. Maida Townsend

Key legislation to be aware of:

Notaries

The discussion began regarding the bill related to notaries. Office of Professional Regulations will oversee the notary application. Requirements are being clarified regarding qualifications and procedural expectations for notaries. Current statutes date back to the 1700's and need to be updated due to inappropriate notarization and because Vermont documents may not be accepted elsewhere. There will be new educational requirements.

Records Management

H.585: An Act Related to Management of Records was distributed as a handout. The purpose of the act is to modernize records management. It is important that the local perspective of clerks and treasurers be heard.

Open Meeting Law

The Open Meeting Law is being reviewed in relation to social media and technology.

Public Records

The Public Records Act will try to increase accountability, transparency, and accessibility.

Ethics

The Ethics Commission bill is related to Conflict of Interest policies for towns.

Elections

A bill regarding Elections is being researched for overseas voters in a presidential primary, as the timing of counting overseas votes sometimes conflicts with candidates' viability and withdrawal. One option would be for voters to rank-order candidates, which may or may not be constitutional.

A possible bill related to spouses being able to pick up absentee ballots for each other was discussed.

Other topics discussed:

- Education taxes, Act 46, fair taxes and the complexity of the formulas.
- Homestead Declaration forms and the additional work to send out multiple revised tax bills.
- Town Meeting and its future viability. Frank Bryant's ingredients for a dynamic Town Meeting were highlighted: the need for real issues, real debate, and the real ability to make decisions.

Appreciation was extended to the presenters. Ideas and opinions are welcome and encouraged to be shared with the legislature.

Upcoming meeting schedule – locations and topics to be announced:
April 26, 2018; July 26, 2018; October 25, 2018

Motion to adjourn at 8:17. Seconded. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Fitch Robert, Secretary, Calais Town Clerk