

**MINUTES --DRAFT**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY CLERKS & TREASURERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Thursday, July 26, 2018**  
**WATERBURY TOWN HALL**

5:30PM – social time, 6:00PM – pot luck dinner

**Attendance:** Carol Dawes, Barre City; Teresa Hoadley, Stowe; Lisa Walker, Stowe; Karen Lathrop, Chelsea; Donna Kelty, Barre Town; Linda Martin, Wolcott; Sara Haskins, Morristown; Bobbi Brimblecombe, Marshfield; Patti Lewis, Fayston; Maureen Harvey, Duxbury; Elizabeth Chase, Morristown; Cherilyn Brown, Moretown; Carla Lawrence, Waterbury; Belinda Clegg, Wolcott; Mitzi Fleming, Morristown; Charlene Walker, Stowe, Cathy Mander-Adams, Belvidere.

**Meeting called to order** at 6:25 PM by Carol Dawes. She thanked Carla for arranging our picnic plans, originally scheduled for one of the Waterbury recreation areas, and for accommodating us in the new Waterbury Town Hall due to the weather.

**Approval of minutes from April 26, 2018 meeting**

Donna Kelty made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Linda Martin. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report and membership update**

Treasurer Bobbi Brimblecombe said \$230 in dues has been collected since November 2017, and the fund balance is \$1,017.43. Expenses to date for the year have totaled \$49 for meals for speakers and guests.

**Select program and location for October 26th meeting**

We will meet at the Charlmont in Morrisville for our October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The topic will be what financial reports should treasurers present to their selectboards/councils. The April program will be on the changes to the vital records law that are set to go into effect July 1, 2019.

**Program: Changes to the Notary Public Laws**

Deputy Secretary of State Chris Winters gave a brief history of his 20 years in the Secretary of State's office. He originally started in the Office of Professional Regulation, and was named Deputy Secretary under current Secretary Jim Condos.

The SOS office has been working on proposed revisions to the notary public laws for several years, but there has been resistance from assistant judges, who currently handle notary certifications, as the judges will lose a source of revenue. However, this past legislative session saw multiple parties coming together to agree on needed changes. H.526 was passed and signed into law as Act 160 on May 22, 2018.

Current law does not have any requirements for identification, appearing in person, keeping a journal, use of stamps, or inclusion of a notary number. The intent of the changes is to update the standards and process, and to lend integrity to transactions. There are states that currently won't accept Vermont notarizations due to the lax standards.

The bill calls for notary certification services to move to the SOS Office of Professional Regulation, as they have an already-developed on-line registration system for other licensing.

The current application system will continue through the upcoming February 10, 2019 anniversary date. It's not yet known if the on-line system will be in place in time for 2/10/19; if not, paper applications will be filed again this year. Terms have been reduced from four years to two years, and fees have been cut from \$30 to \$15. There is no longer an ex officio category, and we are no longer notaries by virtue of being clerks. However, clerks and assistant clerks can apply to be notaries without paying the fee. Terms will all run concurrently, as they do now, and will expire on February 1<sup>st</sup> every other year.

Beginning in 2021, new applicants will have to pass an on-line exam, and renewing applicants will need to have 2 hours of on-line continuing education since the last application.

A committee is working on rule-making, which will cover items such as required forms of ID, signers must appear in person, notaries must be sure their name and commission number appear with their signature – either from a stamp or hand-written. There is no requirement to keep a journal, but it will likely be included in a series of best practices. The new law allows for electronic notarization, but not until the processes are developed through rule-making. Electronic notarization is a necessary step towards electronic land records recording.

Training opportunities are being arranged by the SOS office.

Upcoming meeting schedule (3rd Thursdays) – locations and topics to be announced:

October 25, 2018 – Morrisville

January 24, 2019

April 25, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dawes, Barre City Clerk/Treasurer