



VMCTA *news*

NEWSLETTER OF THE VERMONT MUNICIPAL CLERKS' AND TREASURERS' ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING
85 YEARS!
1936-2020

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Welcome to the 12th edition of the VMCTA newsletter.

Your submissions are welcome — or feel free to contact a member of the committee with an idea.

Welcome New Vermont Clerks & Treasurers

As the result of Town Meeting elections in March, new clerks and treasurers have joined our ranks. We welcome all of them and offer any help they may need.

Here are some of the names, provided by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office and by their neighboring clerks and treasurers :

2020

Kathleen King, Bridport

Sharon Lucia, Bristol

Jen Myers, Bristol

Pamela Cousino, Ferrisburgh

Deb Healey, Ferrisburgh

Sheryl Brown, Granby

Carrie Peters, Groton

Brian Stroffolino, Hartland

Patty Kenyon, Middletown Springs

Kristin Beers, Milton

Carol Garrow-Woolley, Mount Holly

Maggie McCormick, Panton

Emery Mattheis, Randolph

Catherine Sartor, Sharon

Megan LaChance, Shrewsbury

Amy McCormick, Starksboro

Patricia McClure, Sutton

Ellenka Wasung-Lott, Townshend

Britney Aube, Vergennes

Linda Devino, Waltham

Pauline Blake O'Brien, Westminster

Therese Lounsbury, Wilmington

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Two Fall Conferences in Vermont

Looking Forward to Seeing Our Friends & Peers in the Fall!

We have so much to celebrate after over a year of working in ways that none of us could have anticipated before March 2020.

Resilient Vermont Clerks and Treasurers kept their towns and cities going through isolation and long, long hours. Through all of this, most of us were also person-

ally affected as we had to forego contact with extended family members, eating out in our favorite restaurants, having the events in our towns that build community be postponed or cancelled. Professionally, we thought we would have little or no opportunity for professional development.

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Executive Board

PRESIDENT

Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, CMC
Fairlee Town Clerk
(802) 333-4363; Fax (802) 333-9214

PAST PRESIDENT

Donna Kinville, MMC
South Burlington City Clerk
(802) 846-4105

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Tracy Borst, CMC
Thetford Town Clerk
(802) 785-2922, Ext. 10; Fax (802) 785-2031

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Diane Judd
Holland Town Clerk & Treasurer
(802) 885-4440; Fax (802) 895-4440

SECRETARY

Dawn Custer
Hubbardton Town Clerk & Treasurer
(802) 273-2951; Fax (802) 273-3729

TREASURER

Susan McNamara-Hill
Essex Junction Clerk & Treasurer
(802) 879-0413; Fax (802) 878-1353

AUDITOR

Sue Gage
Brandon Town Clerk & Treasurer
(802) 247-3635, Ext. 203; Fax (802) 247-5481

MEMBERS AT LARGE Two Years *Term until 2021*

Charlie Degener, Woodstock Town Clerk
(802) 457-3611; Fax (802) 457-2329

Anita Sheldon
Manchester Town Clerk
(802) 362-1313, opt. 1; Fax (802) 362-1314

MEMBERS AT LARGE One Year *Term until 2020*

Debra Hawkins, Pawlet Town Clerk
(802) 325-3309, Ext. 1; Fax (802) 325-6109

Diana Vachon, Shelburne Town Clerk
(802) 985-5116; Fax (802) 985-9550

Thoughts from the VMCTA President

Hello VMCTA Membership,

This year VMCTA is celebrating its 85th Anniversary! We are holding an in-person Annual Meeting and Educational Conference at the beautiful Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, September 23 - 24.

This will truly be a celebration! We'll get to see old friends and make new ones, learn some new skills to take back to our offices, and hopefully relax and have a bit of fun. Our association milestone would not have been possible without the commitment of its membership through these past 85 years. Just think of all the obstacles the association faced through the years, the Great Depression, wars and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic! Vermont Town Clerks and Treasurers have persevered during these difficult times and have stayed committed to their professions, communities and their association.

Registration for the conference and membership renewal will be available online through our website in early August. Go to our website www.vmcta.org.

I'm so looking forward to seeing everyone. Let's celebrate all of our achievements together again!

—Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, CVC/CMC
VMCTA President



Conference Introduction

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But we are Vermont Clerks and Treasurers - undauntable!

In-person trainings were put on hold, but creativity reigned supreme as workshops and classes were offered through Zoom - some on weekends and some on-demand, allowing for continuing the great opportunity to broaden our knowledge.

The VMCTA Spring training,

which is organized by the Education Committee, was organized as roundtables.

NEMCI&A (New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy) put together online courses.

And now, we have not one, but two conferences in our lovely state in the few few months. How lucky is that!

Read more about them and then click on the links to the websites to register.

VMCTA Conference

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Municipal Clerks & Treasurers Association will be held on September 23 and 24, 2021 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee. An Athenian Dialogue will be offered on September 22.

The days' events promise interesting and informative workshops, camaraderie and conversation, and a chance to develop professionally - to be able to return to your town with new ideas and peer support. The venue is located on beautiful Lake Morey with opportunities to enjoy the water, walk and relax.

Clerks and treasurers contemplating their application for VMCTA certification will find several opportunities to attend seminars on mandatory topics. For clerks, this year's certificate courses include Elections, Municipal Law, and Vital Statistics. For treasurers, the courses are Municipal Accounting and Principals of Banking.

With many of us experiencing frustration, insomnia and an inability to focus on some level, caused by almost almost a year-and-a-half of working in isolation, but also meeting the demands of safely conducting multiple COVID-era elections, a scintillating opening workshop conducted by Dawn Michanowicz and Anne Uecker will get everyone energized. Transformational leadership and self-empowerment - themes to get everyone out of their chairs and ready to make some positive changes!

Other highlights of the conference include an Athenian Dialogue on September 22. The book to be read and discussed is *LEAN IN: WOMEN, WORK AND THE WILL TO LEAD* by Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer of Facebook. Dawn Michanowicz, who has facilitated several Vermont-sponsored Athenians on Zoom during COVID, will be here to guide the group discussion. The link to the registration for this extra opportunity is located on the homepage of the VMCTA website: vmcta.com. Another pre-conference event is a Movie Night on September 22. The film will be chosen from the resort's library by those in attendance.

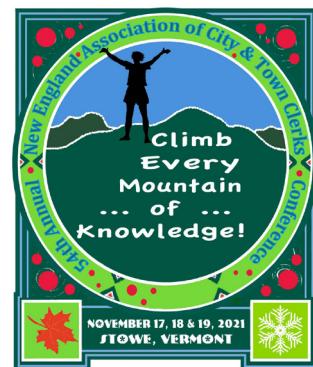
The Annual Meeting, an Awards Banquet, a chance to meet with the vendors who provide us services and materials, more workshops, and positive energy. Don't wait to sign up.

Scholarships are available. The application is also just a click away on the VMCTA website.

NEACTC Conference

Clerks from across New England and beyond will gather in Vermont November 17-19 for the New England Association of City & Town Clerks 2021 Annual Conference in Stowe.

The event will offer a wide range of education sessions, starting with an Athenian Dialogue on Tuesday, November 16. The all-day discussion will feature the book *FIVE DAYS AT MEMORIAL: LIFE AND DEATH IN A STORM-RAVAGED HOSPITAL* by Pulitzer Prize winner Sheri Fink. Janice M Bates, MMC, is the facilitator. This remarkable book is engrossing from start to finish. Fink's landmark investigation of patient deaths at a New Orleans hospital ravaged by Hurricane Katrina – and her suspenseful portrayal of the quest for truth and justice. The book was well received by most critics and won three awards, including a National Book Critics Circle Award for non-fiction.



The program continues on Wednesday with Samara Anderson's two sessions of *BUILDING STRESS RESILIENCE THROUGH MINDFULNESS PARTS 1 & 2*. Thursday's sessions include highlights and other aspects of the 2020 Election with Charles Stewart III, which will discuss ways to help improve the experience of voters and *LESSONS LEARNED IN THE 2020 ELECTION*; the FBI's Perspective on *FINANCIAL CRIMES: BUSINESS EMAIL COMPROMISE, MONEY MULES & ELDER ABUSE* with Anna Holden of the FBI; Dave Davlin shares three essential ingredients for developing a purpose-driven mentality to achieve a fulfilling career and balanced life in an inspiring and impactful presentation. The conference will wrap up on Friday with *THE GIFTS OF ADVERSITY*, presented by Stefanie Schaffer, who will take her listeners through the experiences of waking up from a month-long comatose state, and being told that she was not only an amputee, but also a paraplegic. Schaffer will inspire listeners to make the most of their lives and to thrive within facing life's challenges.

Among the learning will be a multitude of occasions for talking with vendors and other clerks, social activities and great food. Register online: vmcta.com or newenglandclerks.com and click on Conference Information

The Face of Milton

(Editor's Note: This article appeared in the March 28, 2019 issue of the MILTON INDEPENDENT. Due to a series of circumstances, including COVID, it took a while to get in from the publication. Enjoy!)

by Madeline Clark

A patron shuffled up to the town clerk's counter speaking through the glass wall that divides workers from the outside world, last week. But the barrier wasn't as impenetrable as its sturdy look suggested. In fact, Loretta Devino's warm smile seemed to shatter it the very second she greeted the visitor by name.

Her crystal blue eyes draw others in, their alert focus and playful gleam reflecting the kind soul within. Even on first encounter, Devino makes others feel important and heard.

It's no wonder then that many call her the "face of Milton." She's been the first point of contact at the clerk's office for 50 years as of early March-- and couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

"We thought it was going to be part-time for quite some time," Devino said. "But it wasn't."

Devino began her work as an administrative assistant



Loretta Devino at her desk with her usual smile. Photo: Madeline Clark, Independent Staff

when the --then-- newly elected clerk John Cushing asked her to help out in the office part-time.

He needed staff, she was home with her kids, it seemed like a good fit.

"I knew I couldn't do it alone," Cushing said. "She was

just a perfect person for the job we had to do."

Soon the part-time position became full-time. Devino "settled right in" taking calls, answering Miltonians' questions and sharing both laughs and trials with her coworkers. In the process, she found a second home, her "safety zone," as colleague Paulette LaFond puts it.

"What you see is what you get with Loretta," she said.

LaFond joined Devino in the clerk's office just four years into her demi-century-long municipal career and has grown with her over that time.

As LaFond recalls, Devino was welcoming, happy to lend a hand and help ease her transition into the job.

"You have to have somebody to talk to," LaFond said. "I often say that had I started here in the last 10 years I wonder if I would have stayed as long as I did."

Together as coworkers and confidants Devino and LaFond weathered the seasons of life and the changes that time inevitably brought. The line between colleague and family quickly blurred making way for a "sisterly" bond that saw them dodging the ghost of Joe Clark in their former Main Street office, leaning on each other when trying guests came in, having tiffs and making amends, as well as sharing many a vacation in between.

"If the chips are down, that's who you want on your side, is Ret," LaFond said, adding Devino is the type willing to jump in at a moment's notice.

Devino's flaw? An inability to say "no," her co-workers past and present say.

"Anything we ask her to do ... we call her and she just comes in," LaFond said. "But I think without [work] she'd be lost."

Indeed several years ago Devino tried a short stint at retirement --about 30 days or so-- before returning to the post as a part-time assistant.

"It keeps me sane," she said. "I have worked here 50 years and I am still learning; there's always a new challenge."

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Deb Beckett, Williston Town Clerk & Treasurer

Deb Beckett Deb retired in March from a 21-year career as the Town Clerk and Treasurer. In addition to her position as clerk, she served as Lister, Zoning Board/Development Review Board member, Cemetery Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, Town Agent and Town Grand Juror. She was passionate about democratic participation and voter engagement, leading Williston to be a national pioneer of drive-through voting in 2006.

Beckett held many supervisory roles for other regional organizations, including the Williston Federated Church, Williston Community Food Shelf, Williston-Richmond Rotary Club, Habitat for Humanity, Vermont League of Cities & Towns, Vermont Municipal Clerks' & Treasurers' Association, and the New England Association of City & Town Clerks. Beckett was an American Legion commander and board member for both the Williston and Bristol posts, as well as a VFW life member. She was a fixture of Williston Boy Scout Troop 692, helping more than a dozen young men (including her son) achieve their Eagle Scout rank through mentorship in citizenship and community service.

Deb Beckett never got to enjoy her retirement. Her decision to pass along her role of Williston Town Clerk to her long-time assistant, Sarah Mason, on Town Meeting Day 2020, was overshadowed by a return of the cancer she had so bravely fought in recent years. Below, is a tribute that appeared in the **WILLISTON OBSERVER**, Beckett's hometown paper.



like selectboard members and legislative representatives. But for her, the seat was more than a responsibility of local leadership. It alerted her to who in the community was struggling, and gave her an opening to help. "I can't even count the numerous Williston residents she went out of her way to ensure were receiving all the breaks and benefits allotted to them," said Sarah Mason, who has succeeded Beckett as Town Clerk.

Beckett's wife Toby Rockwood and children, Sean and Ellie Beckett, were together Tuesday in the home Beckett and Rockwood shared in Williston. Four days after Beckett's death from complications of cancer brought on by exposure to toxic burn pits during a tour of duty with the Vermont National Guard in Iraq 10 years ago,

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Town Clerk, Treasurer and Hero Deb Beckett Dies

by Jason Starr

From the Williston Observer & updated slightly

One of Deb Beckett's many roles of service to the Town of Williston was holding a seat on the Tax Abatement Board.

This is the board that hears requests for property tax forgiveness based on financial hardship or extenuating circumstances. Beckett, the longtime Town Clerk and Treasurer, served on the board with other town leaders,

Certification & Continuing Education Committee

Diane Judd, Holland (Chair)

Jessica Alexander, Jericho

Charlie Degener, Woodstock

Sara Haskins, Morristown

Clyde Jenne, Hartland

Donna Kelty, Barre Town

Patti Lewis, Fayston

Heidi Racht, Huntington

Legislative Committee

Carol Dawes, Barre City (Chair)
Tim Arsenault, Vernon
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Marshfield
Curry Galloway, St. Albans City
Stacy Jewell, St. Johnsbury
Donna Kinville, South Burlington
(Ad Hoc)

Website Committee

Lucrecia Wonsor, Killington
(Chair)
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Marshfield
Donna Kelty

Fundraising Committee

Diane Judd, Holland (Chair)
Karmen Bascom, South Royalton
Susan Johnson, Cornwall
Betty Ritter, Cabot
Open Position

Scholarship Committee

Sandy Pinsonault, Dorset (Chair)
Susan McNamara-Hill, Essex
Tammy Legacy, Roxbury

Nominating Committee

Diane Judd, Holland (Chair)
Donna Kelty
Kathleen Neathawk, Rockingham

Membership Committee

Diana Vauchon, Shelburne (Chair)
Sara Haskins, Morristown
(list serve)
Patti Lewis, Fayston
Open Position
Open Position

Nellie Noble, Granby Town Clerk & Treasurer

For many years, Nellie Noble headed the VMCTA Fundraising Committee. She capably raised thousands of dollars for the Association through a basket raffle and a live auction. She



Nellie Noble enjoying the antics of VMCTA auctioneer and Hartland Town Clerk Clyde Jenne after a recent conference banquet.
Photo: Heidi Racht

was a prolific crafter of crocheted blankets, a couple of which found their way into her colleagues' cars after the conference every year. Nellie Noble was also an active participant on the VMCTA listserv making many suggestions for articles for this newsletter. Her last post talked about how she had thought she had seasonal (January) blues as she felt tired; after some medical tests, she was diagnosed with bile-duct cancer. She died two months later on June 10.

Noble loved the town of Granby where she served as Town Clerk and Treasurer for more than 30 years, as well as running the Post Office for

the last 20-plus years. She was an avid reader and crafter, loved pumpkin spice, snowmen, and most of all, her grandchildren. Over the years, she crocheted 100s of lap blankets and baby hats to be donated to local hospitals or gifted them to friends and family going through their own battles. Her commitment to her community was deep. She helped author and publish two history books for the town, served on the Granby School PTO, was a member of the Cow Mountain Pond Association, was an active member for the Granby-Victory Congregational Church, was a member of the Holiday in the Hills Association, organized countless community potluck dinners, and was always available when anyone needed a last minute hunting or fishing tag.

Four months later her husband, Calvin, died.

Nellie Noble had many friends among the clerks and treasurers of Vermont. She touched the lives of too many people to count and will be missed by many.

Editor's Note: Nellie Noble was named Vermont Clerk of the Year and Vermont Treasurer of the Year in 2020. The awards were given posthumously.

Next Issue

Coming soon. Feel free to make a submission at any point to go into the next newsletter.

Deb Beckett

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the trio was hosting condolence calls and reminiscing about Beckett's quiet, fierce spirit and multi-faceted social, civic and professional life.

Rockwood said that when Beckett couldn't find the right resources to help a resident resolve a tax relief request, she would sometimes take matters into her own hands.

"She would comb every area to get overdue taxes paid, especially for veterans," Rockwood said. "On a few occasions, she paid them out of her own pocket."

The seat on the Board of Abatement was a small piece of Beckett's involvement in Williston. She was a Boy Scout counselor, a participant in several committees at Williston Federated Church, a member of the American Legion and the local Rotary club, president of the community food shelf and a Habitat for Humanity board member. She also served on the Development Review Board, as Justice of the Peace and the Cemetery Commission.

Sean Beckett marveled that, with all she had going on, whenever he called to get together, she would be available. Earlier this month, Beckett officiated her son's wedding.

"I'm learning so much about my mother that I didn't even know she was involved in, and I'm sure that will continue," Sean said. "Her love for her family and the community didn't fall into one category."

A native of Massachusetts, Beckett attended St. Michael's College,

where she was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. That experience led her into service as a soldier with the Vermont National Guard. Her service included two wartime deployments: a 2004 tour in Kuwait and a 2010 tour in Iraq.

Cancer developed in 2017, a result of exposure to toxic trash-burning pits at army bases in the Middle East. She became an advocate for fellow veterans seeking recognition for burn pit exposure from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Deb Beckett Memorial 5K Race winners at Williston Community Park at the town's 2021 Fourth of July festivities on July 3. Photo: Williston Observer

times without any thanks or acknowledgement.

"I do not even know how she kept up with all of her duties and responsibilities and also managed to be a fun, funny and active partner, mother, sister, aunt, daughter, neighbor, boss, mentor and friend."

Beckett's retirement last March [2020] was planned, but what wasn't planned was the simultaneous deterioration of her health — and the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. Beckett attended her final Town Meeting in March 2020, and accepted well wishes on her retirement. Despite worsening health, she also spent time at the polls the following election day.

"She was so sick," Rockwood said, "but she was not going to miss that Town Meeting."

The pandemic made it impossible to have a proper retirement party in the spring. The Beckett family hosted a gathering in Beckett's honor on September 4, 2020 at the Isham Family Farm barn on Oak Hill Road.

Town officials planned a larger celebration of Beckett's life during the annual Fourth of July festivities — one of Deb Beckett's favorite Williston events.



Deb Beckett, Williston Town Clerk/Treasurer, was named the 2018 Vermont Treasurer of the Year. Here, she receives a celebratory corsage from Patti Lewis at the banquet at the VMCTA Annual Meeting in September 2018. Photo: Heidi Racht

Beckett continued to work in the town offices as she battled cancer with surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy. Mason, who worked under Beckett as Assistant Town Clerk, described her as a guiding light in the town offices and among the statewide community of town clerks and election officials.

"Deb always had an answer you could trust, guidance you could follow and words to believe in," Mason said. "(She) has always been a true hero in our midst who has done more for the community than anyone else I know. She did it all selflessly, quietly, stoically and often

Cutting the Ribbon in South Burlington



A celebratory crowd gathered for the opening in South Burlington on July 23 of the South Burlington Public Library and Town Hall, the community's new municipal building. The three-story complex, which also includes the Senior Center, is located on Market Street, a new street located off Dorset Street. The project was under planning for almost four decades. Voters approved the financing for the \$22.1 million facility in November 2018. The library was relocated from South Burlington High School to the University Mall during construction. The old City Hall will house the offices of the South Burlington School District. School officials also have an option to buy it from the city in 2024 for an unspecified amount. Photo, courtesy of Donna Kinville

Loretta Devino continued from page 4

Devino is no stranger to challenge. Her care, compassion and willingness to learn help her overcome new trials. If she doesn't have an answer for a patron she works until she does, Cushing said. And though she's assisted many people, she doesn't make a great deal of it, he added.

Devino declined the office's request to celebrate her work anniversary with cake. For her, it was simply the start of another year on duty.

While the town has grown and some of the visiting faces have come and gone, the job itself hasn't changed much since Devino started, she said.

Her days see her answering the phone, waiting on the counter for water taxes, dog licenses, marriage certificates and the like. Whenever a

resident comes with a question, she's ready to help.

"Of course in any job you get a little bit more that's added and then you deal with it ... that's another learning experience," she said.

According to LaFond it doesn't look like Devino is going anywhere anytime soon.

"This is her life," she said. "She feels like this is where she's supposed to be."

Devino agrees, as long as her health and her family members are well she'll be behind the counter greeting Miltonians and bringing joy to those around her. The job is all about human connection, she said.

"I've been working with other people that are behind me," Devino said. "I always knew I had good support and so I've always been happy here."

VMCTA Committees

The following is the VMCTA Committee List:

• Awards	• Curriculum	• Nominating
• Budget	• Fundraising	• Public Relations/ Newsletter
• Certification & Continuing Education	• Legislative	• Scholarship
• Constitution	• Membership	• Website
	• Municipal Records	

Check out the VMCTA website for a description and find one that suits your interests and talents. And get involved!

Donna Kelty, Barre Town Clerk and Treasurer

Legendary Barre Town Clerk Donna Kelty retired in May. Throughout her long career, she held many positions on VMCTA committees and was active on the NEMCI&A Board of Directors and NEACTC. Dependable and competent, she willingly shared her knowledge with other clerks and treasurers at state trainings.

Barre Town Clerk Tina Lunt, elected in May, sent along a few articles (only a few!?!?) that celebrated Barre Town's institution. Here is one that appeared in the BARRE-MONTPELIER TIMES ARGUS.

Donna Kelty is Retiring, But Not Going Anywhere

by Eric Blaisdell, Staff Writer

April 29, 2021 Times-Argus

While long-time Town Clerk Donna Kelty plans to retire in less than two weeks after more than 30 years of service, she doesn't plan to go anywhere and wants to continue to serve the town.

Kelty will step down when her term expires May 11 after being elected six times and serving as the town's Clerk and Treasurer for 21 years. She served for 11 years as an Assistant Town Clerk before that.

Town Manager Carl Rogers, another long-serving town worker, said Kelty was in the clerk's office when he started in 1991.

Donna Kelty has received in-person and state recognition for her 32-plus years of service to the town as the long-serving town clerk and treasurer.



Donna Kelty, Barre Town Clerk, was named Vermont Clerk of the Year and Treasurer of the Year in 2011. Photo: Heidi Racht

Kelty stepped down when her term expired last month. She was replaced by Tina Lunt, a now-former Administrative Assistant at Barre Town Middle and Elementary School, during the town's annual election in May.

Though she is no longer Town Clerk, Kelty has stuck around since the election in an advisory role to help Lunt get on her feet. She will officially retire at the end of the month.

Local officials weren't sure whether they were going to be able to recognize and thank Kelty for her work in

person before July 1 because of the coronavirus pandemic. But because of the state's high vaccination rate, Tuesday's regular Selectboard meeting was packed with residents and current and former town employees there to wish Kelty a happy retirement and congratulate her on a job well done.

Board Member Jack Mitchell read from the resolution passed at the meeting that noted Kelty's accomplishments. Mitchell said she has served "with distinction, streamlining processes; improving services by keeping

the office open during the noon hour and offering dog licenses by mail; being a team-player with other departments to solve problems and provide public services."

He said she has presided over 73 local, state and federal elections. Mitchell said she was involved in groundbreaking elections, including the annual vote last year which was held by drive-through because of the pandemic. And he said she oversaw what's believed to be the first same-day voter registration election in the state in January 2017.

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Donna Kelty

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Mitchell said she was named Clerk of the Year and Treasurer of the Year in 2011 by her peers.

Her list of accomplishments was so long it wouldn't fit on one page. Board Chair Paul White said the town's resolutions are typically framed when presented, but they were waiting for a special frame for Kelty's because it was two pages.

The resolution also called for a standing ovation for Kelty. She received a few of those before the night was over.

Rep. Francis "Topper" McFaun, one of the two lawmakers who represent Barre Town in the House, presented Kelty with a resolution passed by the Legislature recognizing her for her service. McFaun said the resolution singles Kelty out as an outstanding clerk and treasurer. He said he knew if there was proposed legislation that might impact the town, he could call Kelty and she'd give him "the straight scoop."

Tom Koch, the town's moderator and a former legislator said he was wearing blue for Kelty, who is a Democrat. Kelty stood up and applauded Koch which drew laughter from the crowd.

"In all my workings and relationships with her, I have never seen her do anything in a partisan or partial manner. She has been completely objective, impartial, competent and a straight-shooter. And I just want to thank you, Donna, for the clerk you have been and the person you are," he said.

Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang said when she took the job

five years ago, she appreciated how Kelty helped her out.

"It made me feel like I was at home, which I really appreciated," Wang said.

She said she remembered a time not too long ago when Kelty had gathered her things and was about to leave for the day when someone had called with a question about their property taxes. She said Kelty told her she'd take the call and after hanging up, Kelty told the assistant town manager that residents worry about things like that.

"The fact that you cared that much, it really stuck out to me," Wang said, thanking Kelty for the example she set.

Lunt, the new Town Clerk, thanked Kelty for helping her get up to speed over the past month. While she's nervous because Kelty will be leaving next week, Lunt said she's excited to start on her own and appreciated Kelty telling her to call her whenever she needs to.

"I can only hope and pray to live up to all the expectations that you've left because you were truly amazing," she said.

Kelty thanked everyone for being there for her recognition. She said it's been a wonderful run, but it's time for it to come to an end.

In response to all the kind words she received, she said no clerk works alone.

The first in a series. Watch for more features on
Vermont Clerks and Treasurers,
who have recently left office in subsequent issues.

New Clerks & Treasurers

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Vanessa Seguin, Wheelock

Robin Durkee, Woodbury

Belinda Harris Clegg, Wolcott

2021

Jeanette Haight, Andover

Tina Lunt, Barre Town

Jennifer Allard, Barre Town

Jeremy Weiss, Calais

Kerri Fillion, East Haven

Brett Stanciu, Greensboro

Brian Stroffolino, Hartland

Cheryl Perry, Hartland

Rebecca DiZazzo, Lowell

Jennie Freeman, Peru

Kiley Deuso, Richford

Rita Hull, Royalton

Patty Kenyon,

Middletown Springs

Carol A. Garrow-Woolley,

Mount Holly

Catherine Sartor, Sharon

Megan A. LaChance, Shrewsbury

Kim Julow, South Hero

Kent Young, Stratton

Ellenka Wasung-Lott, Townsend