

Vermont GFOA
Saxons River Inn
March 16, 2011

Present: Cheryl Lindberg, Bill Hall, John Leisenring, Jeff Mobus, Barbara Kivlin, Shelley Quinn, and John O'Connor

Regrets: Carolyn Gauthier and Lauren Morrissette.

1. Call to Order and Review Agenda:

Cheryl Lindberg called the meeting to order at 1:15pm. She announced that Amy Deutl had lost her local election and was no longer a member of the Board. She will send Amy a letter on behalf of the Board recognizing Amy's service to VTGFOA. John Leisenring noted that he is planning to retire in July 2011. This means that we will have at least 2 vacancies on the Board to fill.

2. John O'Connor moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting. Bill Hall seconded the motion that then passed unanimously.

3. Report of the Chair:

Cheryl Lindberg said that she had received a request from the president of MLC. She would like to be a presenter at one of our workshops. MLC does lease/purchase financing. The consensus was that she could be part of a panel discussion capital leasing/purchasing with the Bond Bank, private banks, and the RLF also invited to participate.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Carolyn Gauthier sent in the Treasurer's Report. The fund balance as of March 11, 2011 was \$7,222.59. Jeff Mobus moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Shelley Quinn seconded the motion that then passed unanimously. There were no invoices to approve, though the workshop related expenses will be coming soon.

5. Board Policies:

The board discussed the draft "President Reimbursement Policy." According to the draft, VTGFOA would pay for national GFOA dues and costs associated with attending the national conference. Cheryl Lindberg noted that we simply don't have the funds budgeted to do this. Shelley Quinn asked how much the national conference cost. Bill Hall said that the conference this year was \$385, with another \$425 in travel/hotel fees. Barbara Kivlin asked about reimbursing NESGFOA instead. Bill Hall said that if the GFOA is too expensive, maybe we could focus on the NESGFOA. John Leisenring said that the GFOA would be much better.

Cheryl Lindberg suggested using the money for scholarships to NESGFOA. Bill Hall said that in Maine this is done for 10 first time attendees. Barbara Kivlin said that perhaps a stipend would be better, since it would be a fixed amount that we could budget. John Leisenring said that he thinks that it is important for the state president to represent the state. Shelley Quinn asked if this would mean an increase in dues,

and, if so, if that might discourage membership. Cheryl Lindberg said that workshop fees could be increased instead.

Bill Hall suggested that we table discussion so that we could think more about it. Cheryl Lindberg summarized the discussion as reimbursement or stipend, GFOA or NESGFOA, or scholarships. John Leisenring said that it could be an inducement to serve on the board for some. The topic was tabled.

The board also discussed the draft "Succession Policy." John Leisenring said that he included this as NH has this policy, even though he wasn't sure if we wanted a similar one. Cheryl Lindberg said that we have to keep recruitment in mind. Jeff Mobus said that it would help us with our long term planning and continuity. Cheryl Lindberg said that board members should expect to go through the chairs. Jeff Mobus suggested that the "President Reimbursement" policy might include the idea of training the incoming VTGFOA president. As time was running short, this policy will be discussed further at the next meeting.

6. Vermont Legislative Update:

Cheryl Lindberg said that she had asked John O'Connor to serve as our liaison to VLCT's Legislative Committee. John O'Connor said that they are just getting started. Their first initiative is to look at the proposal by State Auditor Salmon regarding embezzlement and fraud that is being developed by the Vermont Municipal Advisory Committee (VMAC).

Cheryl Lindberg asked John O'Connor to look into possible legislation regarding tax identification numbers for school districts and towns. She is particularly interested in knowing who is allowed to use them and how it affects tax exempt status.

7. Other Reports/Items:

Bill Hall noted that we had one new member as a result of the workshop. The location was remote, which might have contributed to the lower attendance. The columns were a problem. The room really could not have held many more people comfortably. The food was very good and reasonable. The presentation by Lisa Parker seemed to be well received.

Bill Hall said that the Symposium is next. It will be held June 21 at Capital Plaza in Montpelier. Barbara Kivlin asked about interactive options. Bill Hall said that VLCT has used them. He doesn't believe that they meet our needs. There was a lengthy discussion about when to have the VTGFOA annual meeting. Barbara Kivlin moved to have the VTGFOA annual meeting at the Symposium, with the logistics to be determined at our next meeting. Bill Hall seconded the motion that then passed.

Shelley Quinn asked why we don't have more members from school districts. There is even more regulation for school districts. Bill Hall said that they have their own state organization that is active. He didn't know if that was as true in other states.

The next VTGFOA meeting will be a conference call on April 13, 2011 at 1:30pm.

Cheryl Lindberg adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm, to which all participants unanimously concurred.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Mobus
Secretary