



VTGFOA Board Meeting January 20, 2021, 1:30 p.m. Minutes

Present: Abbie Sherman, Cheryl Lindberg, William Kriewald, Dawn Monahan, Casey Rowell, Suzanne Lowensohn, Michael Gaughan

1. Call to Order / Review of Agenda Abbie Sherman called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. *No changes to the agenda*
2. Approval of Minutes: December 16, 2020

Upon motion by Cheryl, seconded by Will, the Board voted to approve the minutes, as written.

3. Treasurer's Report:

December 2020 Financials

Dawn reported that on the income statement we had 3 additional members at the \$30 rate. The VLCT refund was added in and we had a small amount of interest. On the expense side, the PO Box fee of \$118 and the NESGFOA dues are the only new items for December. Dawn has checked the mail and got an outstanding list from Marie. The \$10 receivable on the Balance Sheet is dues from Randolph Town.

Upon motion by Cheryl, seconded by Casey, the Board voted to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

4. Membership Committee Report:

Suzanne reported that she has the list of members but has not scrubbed it yet for active, duplicates, etc. There was some question about mailing vs. emailing invoices. The consensus was that we should email invoices, rather than mail them. The group discussed a potential member and if it was legitimate because the person is from Illinois.

Michael shared that he is a member of the National Federal of Municipal Analysts who uses member Clicks and that several other GFOA's use it as well. The system has invoicing functions and a credit card payment platform. He did investigate the pricing and it was about \$2,000 annually. It seems that it would help with some of the functions that VLCT used to do for us. It includes online events.

Thank you to Michael for looking up the information about Member Clicks. While this is out of our price point, it is good to keep our eyes open for options. Michael asked how many members we had, and it is at 70 currently. We had 150 last year.

There was discussion about whether we would be continuing with online workshops or going back to in-person once it is safe again. The in-person offers more networking opportunities. The discussion was

mixed with some thinking yes, we would eventually be back to in-person. Others were thinking that we would get more attendance from the members that are further away and did not want to travel. We could survey the membership to see what their preference is. Abbie asked about the need for additional equipment if we were to offer workshops that were in person and virtual at the same time. Will commented that he would want to know what our members want. Abbie would like to see NESGFOA come up with an option that the local GFOA's could piggyback on.

5. Education Committee Report

Winter Workshop: Michael prepared a brochure for the workshop. The speakers are lined up. Casey and Abbie are working on getting it out to the members today or tomorrow. The Education Committee will work on getting bios and presentations. Casey asked Will to share the contact info of the speakers, so she can reach out to get their bios.

Suzanne shared that she recently learned about some fraudulent unemployment claims. She said that with the economy the way it is, maybe we could work in some fraud controls as a future workshop. There seems to be a real uptick in fraud in general during the pandemic. Dawn noted that there has been fraud with the federal COVID relief programs as well. This is a topic to consider and maybe something on Cyber Security too.

6. Government Relations Committee Report

Will reported that he will have an update at the next meeting. The session just started, and it is very COVID focused and discussions about how things might change with a new President. Cheryl mentioned that the tax department is suggesting that income tax could fund higher education. Abbie mentioned that mini TIF's (tax increment funding) is expected to come up again.

7. President's Report

Abbie reported that our registration with the Secretary of State expired and she renewed it, along with updating the information attached to it. It was free previously, but this time it was \$50 to make the changes and renew it. Abbie said that she would submit for reimbursement next month. Cheryl said that she did not need to wait. *Upon motion by Casey, seconded by Cheryl, the Board voted to reimburse Abbie the \$50 upon her submission to the Treasurer of proper proof of payment.*

8. Other Business

NESGFOA Update:

Cheryl attended the recent meeting. They are looking at April 8 & 9 for the Spring Conference, which will be virtual. They are always looking for topics. They are looking at 9-12 each day. There will be a Board meeting on the 8th. They are proceeding cautiously with the Fall workshop, which may still be virtual. There was a discrepancy with the invoice for NESGFOA. They were expecting a larger payment for our membership. Cheryl let them know that our membership was down this year and the amount we sent was accurate. The group viewed the financials of the NESGFOA that was presented at their last meeting.

Abbie asked when they might have the Spring conference finalized and if we might want to offer scholarships. Cheryl indicated that the cost will likely be nominal maybe \$30-\$50, so she is not sure scholarships will be necessary. Since there is no travel, hotel, etc. associated with this, the cost to attend virtually will be nominal.

Cheryl mentioned that the audit of the Vermont conference has not been completed due to COVID restraints. A new Board member asked about the last conference in Vermont and Cheryl reviewed the results of the 2019 NESGFOA at Spruce Peak. Cheryl went over the background of the contract and the food and beverage minimum in the contract. Attendees were very pleased with the conference and, in particular, with the location. Efforts made to discuss future conference sites in Vermont got underway, but COVID has curbed all NESGFOA conference plans at this point.

9. Adjourn

Upon motion by Casey, seconded by Suzanne, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Casey Rowell, Secretary