

Vermont GFOA
Board Meeting
Via Phone Conference
April 10, 2012

Present: Cheryl Lindberg, Deb Beckett, Carolyn Gauthier, Cynthia Gibbs, Bill Hall, Jeff Mobus, Lauren Morrisseau, Kim Moreno, John O'Connor, and Shelley Quinn

Regrets: None

Cheryl Lindberg called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM

1. Approval of Minutes

Bill moved and Cynthia seconded the approval of the 3-14-12 minutes. 2 amendments were requested. In the Report of the President a sentence concerning food for the conference was changed to "There will be breakfast items and lunch on a per person basis," and the line stating that Bill had said the scholarship winner did not need to be a VTGFOA member was removed. The minutes were approved as amended with all in favor.

2. Annual Meeting Discussion

Cheryl reported that the contract for the Annual Meeting arrangements with the Fairfield Inn in White River Junction has been signed. Bill commented that he had received written confirmation from GASB that Lisa Parker will be our speaker. There is no cost for the speaker only reimbursement of expenses. Bill will let Cheryl know if Lisa Parker needs to have a room reserved for her. Cheryl reported that the lunch would be sandwich and soup as requested at the previous meeting.

3. Scholarship

Cheryl informed the board that the draft application form which we all received had been reviewed by Jeff and Bill. She stated that questions concerning the scholarships will be answered at Annual Meeting. Cheryl said she asked the NE Board to put on their next meeting agenda how the payment would be handled – through the States or by the NESGFOA. This will be clearer after the next NESGFOA Board meeting. Cheryl asked if the applications could be handled via e-mail. The Board consensus was that this would be ok.

Jeff asked how we would decide who to award the scholarships to. It was suggested all board members think of criteria and the form could be modified to ask for this information could be included on the form. Shelley made the suggestion that length of time in their position could be one of the questions. Jeff and Bill suggested they could find out what other States are doing. This information should be available for our next meeting. The form will be finalized after the next meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

Carolyn had asked via e-mail if the Board thought it would be ok to change banks from People's United to Merchants Bank. People's has closed its branch in Essex Junction and Carolyn would find it more convenient to do this banking where she already does other business. Merchants Bank is offering free checks, deposit slips, endorsement stamp and no service fees. Cheryl verified with Shelley (who is employed by Merchants Bank) that there were no conflict of interest issues regarding the move to Merchants Bank. Shelley verified there were none. Bill moved and Kim seconded a motion to accept Carolyn's proposal to change banks to the Merchants. There were nine in favor with one abstention. The motion passed.

Carolyn reported that the bills approved at the last meeting had been paid and that we had nothing else due. Cheryl noted that revenues were lagging behind expenditures. Carolyn reported she had sent the Clerk/Treasurers Association an e-mail regarding their contribution but she has not heard back. She will

investigate further. Cheryl noted that dues was lower than anticipated. There was discussion of where folders expense was reported. It was clarified that the \$14.00 and the \$11.20 were appropriately allocated as workshop expense as they were directly related. The \$36.26 spent by Cheryl for certificate paper and folders was correctly allocated to Miscellaneous line item in the budget. Jeff made the motion to approve the financial report and Cynthia seconded it. All voted in favor.

5. Legislative Committee

John O'Connor reported that H763 concerning the collection of property taxes has entered the House Appropriations committee and there does not seem to be any movement at this time. It concerns the collection of School property taxes and deals with the issues of confidentiality, rebates and steps for the department of taxes to start collecting these taxes. There was discussion of the views of the Clerk/Treasurers. Some were in favor of the bill and some were not. We in VTGFOA are not sure either of our position on the bill. There was concern voiced by Deb that the State would collect taxes but leave the burden of collecting delinquencies to the Towns. John will keep abreast of the situation and when we should get involved.

6. Membership Committee

Shelley and Jeff reported that they had not spoken since the last meeting. Shelley asked if anyone had looked at the list of CPA firms she had sent out to identify specific people to target with information about our organization. It was suggested that the managing partner of each firm be sent information on membership and our presentation by Lisa Parker. If we send 80 letters and reach 40 actual people that would be good. There was discussion of whether people would join so close to the end of the year. Cheryl commented that good progress had been made by the committee.

7. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM. The next meeting is scheduled as a conference call on May 16 at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren Morriseau
Secretary