**VALA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom**

The November VALA BOD meeting began at 9:35 with a roll call of the county delegates verifying that a quorum was reached with the following delegates or alternates present: **Addison:** Bill Munoff; **Bennington:** Jed Rubin, alternate; **Caledonia:** Larry Willey, new delegate; **Chittenden:** Bob Vickery; **Essex:** delegate vacancy, no rep; **Franklin:** Pat McNall; **Grand Isle:** Sue Lawrence;  **Lamoille: ?** **Orange:** Phyllis Hayward; **Orleans:** Maree Bushey; **Rutland:** Marcia Chioffi; **Washington: ? Windham:** Hardy Merrill; **Windsor:** Joe Turner, alternate.

Secretary, Stacey Bradley did not have a report for this meeting.

The minutes from the previous Board of Directors meeting in July were submitted for approval. Jed Rubin moved the motion to accept the July minutes; Bob Vickery seconded the motion. Following no discussion, the motion carried.

The Treasurer’s report was read by President Lisa Wright as Lisa Truchon was unable to make the meeting. Noted that the sponsorship revenues from the Annual Conference were not included in the report. (Sponsorship monies expected from CAI, Mascoma Bank, PVR, and NEMRC; Vision supported the web presentation.)

Beginning balance: $ 39,165.91

Revenues rec’d: + $ 11,890.00 (from membership dues, education fees & conference fees)

Expenditures: - $ 26,716.46

Total Ending bal. $ 27,711.99

**Committee Reports**

Legislature: Paul Obuchowski and Walter Hastings were not able to make the meeting. No report was given. A request for volunteers to be involved was made as the members that have been attending the legislative sessions both in-person before COVID and via remote more recently, are looking to step away from doing this. It does involve a fair amount of time and commitment to be involved in Montpelier weekly. The idea of hiring a professional part-time lobbyist was brought up. As the legislature will not be back in session until sometime in January, this well be revisited with the hopes that perhaps some member(s) will volunteer.

Membership: Val Almosnino was unable to attend the meeting but was able to pass on that the membership renewals had come in a good level. A full membership report is expected to be given at the next meeting.

Annual Conference: Phyllis Hayward reported that the annual conference was well attended. It was good that they were able to shift it to be all remote via Zoom. That perhaps there should be consideration given to having a hybrid option in the future to allow for better attendance. On that Lisa Wright commented that the conference should probably be an either or as opposed to a hybrid with the amount of extra work created in hybrid attendance options for such large gatherings. But that the remote and hybrid option works well for the bi-monthly meetings especially in the winter months.

Education: Elizabeth Curan reported that the 3 courses held in the fall, IAAO 101, 102 and 311 were very well attended (22, 18 and 18 attendees respectively). Looking for ideas for classes for 2022 and those should be posted in December or January. As always, looking to support the VPA certification requirements. Noted that IAAO is working to make a scaled down version of the 101 class that will have less math and focus more on the practical components. As far as state trainings and courses go, Christie Wright reported that not much yet is in place, the planning will happen soon for 2022. VTPIE trainings are going to start so keep an eye out for those on the state website. Christie also wanted to be clear that the IAAO classes are great for learning theory but for practical application learning, the PVR classes are where new and seasoned listers and assessors will get that.

Treasurer/Finance: No report at this time.

PVR Director, Jill Remick, gave an update, introducing the newest members of the PVR staff including Assistant Director Kate Strousse; Program Manager, Chloe Wexler; DA, Jen Meyers; as well as the new Current Use Specialists which now means PVR is fully staffed once again. Pat Santosa from Axiomatic will be attending all meetings to bring VTPIE updates and answer questions. PVR is working on the Annual Report that will be presented to the state legislature in mid-January. Key points are that the per parcel fee the state pays towns is inadequate and needs to be increased; towns need support and resources to valuing high end commercial and utility properties and, on this point, PVR is contracting a consultant to help develop a mass appraisal model for these properties. PVR has discussed ideas, proposals and “things to consider” in this endeavor with VLCT and would like input and recommendations from VALA to include in the report. Utilities will be handled through VTPIE to streamline the process for PVR in collection of data and then the management and hand-off to towns. Lisa Wright stated that input was really needed from VALA members in regards to utilities and high value commercial properties; Carol Hammond, Joe Turner, Cheryl Tudhope and Stacey Bradley will meet in early December to discuss this and come up with recommendations. Ed Clodfelter stressed it was important to get assistance with hydroelectric facilities. Judi Moe and Louise Bethel also commented that hydro and quarries need re-evaluation. Someone asked how many towns were really affected by this. To which the answer was “all towns” because it includes not just utilities but specialized high end commercial properties, industrial, complex properties which the state has a long way to go at having these “dialed in”. Christie Wright commented that until there is a state standard mandating how these properties are assessed, any towns that contract out appraisals on these types of properties will not see any CLA benefit. Maree Bushey moved the motion to authorize the Utility Committee to draft a letter to PVR to be included in the legislative report; seconded by Hardy Merrill. Motion passed; committee will meet in December.

A note from NEMRC’s Chris Meile that they are working with Axiomatic and on track to meet the needs of the scheduled roll out. A reminder that towns must submit their electronic 411 between January 1-15 and not before.

An update on Current Use audits: due to COVID-19, the audits did not take place last year. This is an annual statutory requirement where the current use parcels of 3 towns are reviewed by PVR. Cy Bailey will be the point person that this coming year.

**New Business:**

Linda Sherman asked if there were any members interested in forming a committee for the needs of resort towns. Talk to her if anyone would like to be involved.

The Equalization Study Committee needs more people, contact Christie or Linda.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be in January.

Meeting was adjourned around 10:45.